

Tell Congress to Reject Internet Censorship Tools in PIPA

On January 24th the United States Senate will be voting on **S. 968 the PROTECT IP Act (PIPA)**. Your two Senators will decide whether America will adopt the tools of censorship used to block websites in countries like China and Iran or reject them by standing with Senators Ron Wyden, Jerry Moran, Rand Paul, and Maria Cantwell. **Ask your two Senators to stand against adopting the tools of censorship in any bill that comes to a vote.**

What you should know about PIPA:

- 83 of the Internet's original creators including Vint Cerf, co-designer of TCP/IP, and Robert W. Taylor, founder of ARPAnet, oppose SOPA and PIPA.
- The government has a poor track record of protecting free speech on the Internet. For example, lawful hip-hop music blog Dajaz1.com was held by the government for an entire year on the accusation of copyright infringement.
- Think tanks, government agencies, and industry associations across the political and social spectrum have said that SOPA and PIPA would undermine freedom of expression worldwide as well as America's national cyber security.
- Top cyber security experts have said that SOPA and PIPA would undermine a 15 year initiative (DNSSEC) to update Internet security.
- Human rights groups have told Congress that PIPA would help censorship regimes like China and Iran by sacrificing America's fight for Internet freedom worldwide.
- The Senate has yet to allow experts on free speech, network engineering, Internet security, or human rights to testify at a hearing on PIPA.
- The content industry has spent \$94 million in lobbying Congress to pass their bills in 2011, arguing that if China can censor the Internet the U.S. also can do it.
- Lobbyists have misled Congress by saying the United States already uses censorship tools for malware and child pornography.

Sample Town Hall Questions:

- Will you stand with Senators Wyden, Moran, Paul and Cantwell and oppose Internet censorship on January 24th?
- Do you understand what the Domain Name Server (DNS) system is and have you consulted with cybersecurity experts on the effects of the Protect IP Act?
- Would you still vote for Protect IP if it restricts freedom of speech?
- Have you taken money from the movie and music industry?

Who Opposes SOPA/PIPA's Censorship Provisions ([full list](#))?

[Non-profit organizations and education institutions](#), including Public Knowledge, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and library groups like The American Association of Law Libraries, American College of Research libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Special Libraries Association. Other non-profit organizations opposed to the bill include the [Future of Music Coalition](#), the [Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice](#), the [Internet Society](#) and the [Public Interest Registry](#).

A group of 41 “press freedom and human rights advocates,” including the [Center for Media Justice, Free Press, and organizations from the European Union, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, England, Finland, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Sweden](#). Additionally, [Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and Internews](#) all oppose SOPA/PIPA's filtering provisions.

[83 Internet professionals, cybersecurity experts, and Internet engineers](#) including Vint Cerf, the creator of TCP/IP, Paul Vixie, the author of BIND, Esther Dyson, the founding Chairman of ICANN, and Robert Taylor, an early ARPAnet innovator.

[Founders of some of the most successful Internet companies](#): Marc Andreessen, co-founder of Netscape, Michell Baker, co-founder of Firefox, Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, Jack Dorsey, co-founder of Twitter and Square, Caterina Flake, co-founder of Flickr and Hunch, David Filo, co-founder of Yahoo!, Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn, Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, Chad Hurley, co-founder of YouTube, Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive and co-founder of Alexa Internet, Elon Musk, co-founder of PayPal, Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist, Pierre Omidyar, founder of eBay, Biz Stone, co-founder of Obvious and Twitter, Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation, Evan Williams, co-founder of Blogger and Twitter, and Jerry Yang, co-founder of Yahoo!.

Think tanks such as the [Brookings Institute](#) and [CATO Institute](#) as well as consumer groups such as [the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, and U.S. PIRG: The Federation of State PIRGs](#), and the [Entertainment Consumers Association](#).

The [Sandia National Labs](#) under the Department of Energy and [OpenDNS](#), “the largest DNS and Internet security service in the world.”

[130 “entrepreneurs, founders, CEOs, and executives](#) who have been involved in 283 technology start-ups,” including Chas Edwards of Digg, Chad Dickerson of Etsy, and Dennis Crowley of Foursquare.

[55 venture capitalists](#) from firms such as Union Square Ventures, Andreessen Horowitz, Index Ventures, and SV Angel.