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CROPLIFE SUPPORTS THE ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA)

Washington, DC, October 23, 2007 – CropLife America and CropLife International strongly support the anti-counterfeiting efforts of the United States Trade Representative and welcome the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) proposal. The plant science industry seeks to increase effective enforcement of intellectual property rights standards internationally to promote economic growth and encourage the responsible stewardship of agrichemicals.

“The loss of diverted sales caused by the trade in counterfeit crop protection products is only one aspect of concern for the plant science industry. Unlike the regulated crop protection chemical industry, counterfeit crop protection products pose a direct threat to the economy, food supply, and health of farmers and consumers,” said Jay Vroom, President and CEO of CropLife America.

CropLife and its member companies are actively working with the United States government and international partners to limit the flow and distribution of illegally manufactured crop protection chemicals. We welcome the increased international cooperation on enforcement by like-minded countries that ACTA will bring. “We are eager to engage our regional partners to work with law enforcement agencies within ACTA participant countries,” added Jay Vroom.

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Look for CropLife America on the World Wide Web at www.croplifeamerica.org. Established in 1933, CropLife America represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture in the United States. CropLife America’s member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection products used by American farmers and ranchers.

News Alert

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NAM JOINS USTR, OTHER BUSINESS GROUPS IN NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Vargo Sees "Great Opportunity" to Combat Piracy of Intellectual Property

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 23, 2007 – The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) today joined with U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab and members of the Congressional Caucus on Intellectual Property and Piracy Prevention in support of a new "plurilateral agreement" to advocate high standards for protection of intellectual property in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.

"This is a compelling idea that provides us a great opportunity to make real headway against the growing problem of international counterfeiting that is hurting so many U.S. manufacturers," said Frank Vargo, NAM's vice president for international economic policy.

"We commend Ambassador Schwab for finding an innovative approach to combat piracy of intellectual property and we'll continue to work with her to address the issue," he said. "Likewise, the Japanese government deserves a great deal of credit for playing an early role in promoting a new initiative on intellectual property protection."

The proposed agreement calls for advanced economies that already share a strong commitment to protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) to establish common legal standards and enforcement practices and to expand international cooperation to stop counterfeiting and piracy. It is hoped that negotiation of "plurilateral agreement" among a small group of like-minded trading partners will proceed more quickly and productively than a global agreement with all WTO members.

"There is no question that piracy of intellectual property is out of control and undercutting U.S. competitiveness," Vargo said. "Because the proposed agreement is consistent with existing law and no new legislation should be required, we expect to see rapid progress."

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The National Association of Manufacturers is the nation's largest industrial trade association, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NAM has 11 additional offices across the country. Visit the NAM's award-winning web site at www.nam.org for more information about manufacturing and the economy.