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E-WASTE RECYCLING LEADERS PRAISE SENATOR HATCH FOR LEADERSHIP ON COUNTERFEIT GOODS

*Coalition Encourages Broader Focus on Counterfeit Electronics to
Protect National Security, Public Safety*

March 21, 2018 – The Coalition for American Electronics Recycling (CAER), the voice of the emerging e-waste recycling industry on Capitol Hill, today praised U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) for his leadership in bringing attention to the issue of counterfeit goods. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Hatch recently held hearings on “[Protecting E-commerce Consumers from Counterfeits](#),” which examined the impact of fake products across a wide range of consumer goods.

In addition, CAER called for a focus on counterfeit electronic components, originating primarily from China, that represent theft of intellectual property from the semiconductor industry while posing a threat to our national security and critical infrastructure. Counterfeit electronics have raised reliability and safety concerns in a wide range of industries, including defense, telecommunications, energy, transportation, healthcare and automotive.

A [Senate Armed Services Committee study](#) found 1,800 cases of counterfeit parts in military technology, including helicopters, cargo planes, submarines, thermal weapons site, and missile control systems. Equally important, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) calls counterfeits a [threat to public health and safety](#). SIA cites examples of fake microchips found in life-saving healthcare equipment, consumer products, braking systems for high-speed trains in Europe, and others.

Action on e-waste exports also supports the goals in the Trump Administration’s [National Security Strategy](#) (NSS). Released late last year, the NSS emphasizes the importance of:

- **Building America's military strength.** Yet that investment in defense systems is undermined by counterfeit electronic components that cause concerns about the reliability of military hardware.

- **Protecting critical infrastructure and digital networks.** However, hackers and cyber terrorists can use counterfeit microchips to launch attacks. For instance, they could add malware to a counterfeit that could steal information or prevent a device from working properly.
- **Stopping chronic trade abuses.** That must include halting the trade in counterfeit microchips from China, made using e-waste exported from our own shores.

In addition, the NSS highlights the importance of rejuvenating the U.S. economy "for the benefit of American workers and companies" in order to "restore our national power." By requiring domestic processing of untested, non-working e-waste, U.S. policy will support the growth of the domestic e-waste recycling industry and create up to 42,000 quality jobs. More information about the link between e-waste exports and the NSS goals is available [here](#).

CAER includes more than 150 companies and supporting members operating approximately 300 facilities in 35 states and Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. For more information on counterfeit electronic parts, visit the [CAER website](#).

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