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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Federation of Musicians of the U.S. and Canada Comment on Release of Anti-Counterfeiting and Trade Agreement Act (ACTA)

The U.S. Trade Representative and international negotiators have released a draft of the Anti-Counterfeiting and Trade Agreement (ACTA). Below is a comment from Thomas F. Lee, International President of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada:

“Global protection of intellectual property is important to thousands of musicians, most of whom are neither rich nor celebrities, but who depend on the lawful distribution of their recorded performances to earn a living. We thank the U.S. Trade Representative and other negotiators for moving forward to establish fair and effective international protections for our creative work, which is crucially important not only to us, but also to our American culture and economy.”

ABOUT THE AFM

Founded in 1896, the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM), AFL-CIO, is the largest organization in the world dedicated to representing the interests of professional musicians. With more than 90,000 members, the AFM represents all types of professional musicians, including those who record music for sound recordings, film scores, videogames, radio, television and commercial announcements, as well as perform music of every genre in every sort of venue from small jazz clubs to symphony orchestra halls to major stadiums. Whether negotiating fair agreements, protecting ownership of recorded music, securing benefits such as health care and pension, or lobbying legislators, the AFM is committed to raising industry standards and placing the professional musician in the foreground of the cultural landscape. For more information, contact the main number at (212) 869-1330 or visit the Web site at www.afm.org.

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