Name: Alan Batie

Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #2 (DVD Region Coding): Audiovisual works stored on Digital Versatile Disks ("DVDs") that are not available in Region 1 DVD format and access to which is prevented by technological measures.

Summary:

Disc name: TV SERIES: "They Live"; "Saphire and Steel"; "Futurama"; "The Family Guy"; "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"; "Dilbert". FILMS: "Jeffrey"; "Maurice"; "Bent"; "All That Jazz"; "Beautiful Thing".

There are a number of "unavailable in the US" TV shows that are region coded. "They Live" by John Carpenter is only available in region 2. Saphire and Steel, a British science fiction TV series is also "unavailable in the US". The list includes the first two seasons of "Futurama"; the first season of "The Family Guy"; the uncut version of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"; the first season of "Dilbert"; anything by Bill Hicks on DVD. The list goes on and on. Since TV series are not even intended for showing in theaters, it is difficult to imagine any reason for releasing them as region coded DVD1s. In addition, there are a number of movies released as region coded DVD's abroad that are not playable on US region coded players, even though they're no longer playing in the theaters. Examples: "Jeffrey"; "Maurice"; "Bent"; "All That Jazz"; "Beautiful Thing". It is unwarranted discrimination to say "these people can buy and use our product, but these other people can't", especially after the original purpose of the region coding no longer applies (i.e. to prevent DVD's from undercutting theaters for films not yet released in particular areas). Even more, with digital technologies coming online now, there soon will be no reason not to release movies to theaters globally, so even the insufficient argument the studios use to support this arbitrary and discriminatory practice is on the verge of breaking down.