

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: importance of intellectual rights being protected
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:47:46 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

I am the administrator of a small music publishing company and independent record label in Nashville, Tennessee.

I have the joy of being on the front end of the creative process as I have songwriters sitting in my offices on any given day writing songs to hopefully be recorded by recording artists or by themselves on our label.

While technology has given many new opportunities to expose new artists on our "indie" label, it has also given many people the opportunity to take advantage of taking the music for free and as businesses, we publishers are paying these writers a salary to create; an advance against future earnings. If the earnings are not going to be there, we have no incentive to employ the writers to create. There are only a handful of writers who become hugely successful. The rest of them make modest livings and need every fraction of a penny coming to them. In the past few years I have seen many fellow administrators lose their jobs as the income in their companies had dropped dramatically. I have also seen more and more songwriters without a writing contract to create and having to take jobs waiting on tables or doing odd jobs as the publishers just no longer have the income to sign them.

I would like to see our country try what Great Britain has done and from what I have heard, it has helped sales of music online.

Rather than go after people who are downloading music or other intellectual property illegally with lawsuits, I would like to see deals made with the internet service providers to change their connections from high speed to a very slow dial up connection which would have a very punishing effect on people who like to listen to music online and use the internet. Once they pay for the music they downloaded illegally, they could have their high speed connection back.

I also think the administration might consider an education campaign to teach people the importance of supporting people who are creative. I now that many people think when they download a song by a certain artist that the artist makes plenty of money but they don't understand how little the songwriters get. Much in the way the campaign to get kids moving and exercising is starting to enter our consciousness, I do believe some kind of public campaign like we had on "don't be a litterbug" in the 1960's to make people have a consciousness about littering could have a positive effect. We have the first generation growing up who will most likely NEVER buy a CD but obtain all their music online. When we don't have something tangible to hold in our hands, it is harder to value it so there needs to be some education going on in schools. Of course, with so many schools cutting out music programs, how do we engage children about the value of music in their lives?

Thank you for anything you can do to protect the rights of creative human beings for their creations truly do enrich our lives and help connect us to our own humanity.

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