

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Directed from Pirate-Party.us
Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010 11:11:26 PM

" The copyright laws in this country are already outrageous and I will not support any law that wishes to add additional enforcement, or expansion of copyright laws until the current system is fixed. I urge you to seek assistance from parties on both sides of the issue, including the United States Pirate Party

In regards to part one, I feel that any alleged losses due to the sharing of files online are negligible in comparison to the record gains from the increase of popularity, free advertisement, and additional sales. There are numerous artists who have gained profit and popularity despite, and even in thanks, online file sharing, including Eminem and Nine Inch Nails.

Concerning part two, I feel that the government should update its objectives and start looking for ways to work with businesses to adopt a better model that includes the free sharing of ideas (which is what this country is founded on). If that is not possible, then I request that you look for forms of enforcement that do not go against the consumer, and the rights of consumers, such as, but not only, the ability to backup media that you already own.

I support authors' rights to own their content, but I also want this to be done in a way that does not impede my ability to use the content that I own in a way of my choosing. In addition, any further intellectual property enforcement would certainly be a dire violation of my privacy."

The previous is quoted verbatim, but I would like to add my own two cents to this argument.

The 'problem' of piracy is exaggerated and completely without merit. The RIAA is a bloated corporate hog whose only interest is gaining more money for itself. It has no caring for the fans (otherwise it would be putting out higher-quality music), no caring for the artists (or they would be getting more money for THEIR work), and no caring for the consumers (DRM anyone?) anymore.

Those that gain their media through piracy were not likely to purchase it in the first place - college students, 12 year-olds, anyone that lives on a budget that does not allow them frivolous spending. By targeting these individuals, you are further alienating those that do pay for your music. By removing our ability to even back up those files we legally own, you're leaving us wondering 'why bother?' The current model is based on one thing only: greed. More money, more demands, more sanctions, and less outgoing to finding true musical talent.

Talk to the artists, find out what they think - see if they care whether or not John Q. Public downloads their music. Of course, the RIAA won't like that - they might give a different answer than the one they've spoon-fed the government for years. The artists see so little of the album sales that even a million pirates make a negligible impact. Concert attendance is high, thanks to people being able to preview the artists for free and finding who they like. Of course, the RIAA doesn't make a lot of money from the concerts, which is why that's a problem with them.

In closing, take a careful look at who holds your reins. The RIAA has billions of dollars, and have bought and paid for the government on this instance. My letter won't do any good - the decisions have already been made, it's just a matter of when the corporate masters want to unleash their next hell-spawn on the public. So go ahead and tell the oversight committee that piracy is a bad thing, that more sanctions need to be levied, and that the RIAA is right. What can the people do against the face of that machine?

Sincerely signed:

Rory Alexander Baldwin