Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance and A2IM (the U.S. independent music label trade organization) have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

Our company, Blind Pig Records, has been in business for over 33 years and due to copyright infringement and piracy the viability of our business and the careers of our artists have never been threatened more.

From the loophole in the law that allows terrestrial radio to use music without any need to compensate the artists or the copyright holders, to the explosion of web sites, blog sites, file sharing sites, etc. that openly pirate our music by offering free downloads, we have never been more threatened. Many people have grown up without ever having to purchase music. As a result they are under the impression that music should be free and that copyrights have no value and are not to be respected. This reality has devastated our business. To date, this has resulted in job losses, pay cuts for the remaining employees, lower royalty payments to artists, writers, and publishers, lower recording budgets for future projects and the lack of incentive to invest in projects that are increasingly less likely to be profitable.

The unauthorized and illegal copying, sale, and distribution of intellectual property directly impacts the ability of artists and copyright holders to control the use of their own creativity, not to mention the ability to receive income that we have rightfully earned from our labor both in our country and countries abroad.

Action is urgently needed to restore the effective rights of copyright holders. Simply put, the economic viability of our industry and related industries are at stake.

Sincerely,

Jerry Del Giudice
Chief Financial Officer
Blind Pig Records, a division of Whole Hog Inc.
773-772-0043
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