

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Copyright Infringement's Effect On The Independent Record Label
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:30:53 AM

Dear 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.

I own and operate an independent record label based in Torrance California. In addition to working with dozens of artists, I employ three people and retain the services of a half dozen independent service providers. We have been in business for over 16 years, releasing our first record in 1993. As you are no doubt fully aware, illegal file sharing has devastated the music industry and it isn't just the high paying jobs and the big corporations that are struggling. The effects of illegal file sharing also reach the small independent labels, their artists and employees.

Record labels are closing their doors or are in survival mode. To make ends meet we are reducing staff and cutting back on our release schedules. The effect of this reduction in income is a reduction of professionals and artists able to make a living from music. Statistics show that more and more music is being released each year, yet the hidden, unspoken truth is that because of illegal file sharing there is insufficient cash flow to sustain most as full time artists.

Illegal file sharing will never be stopped. I ask that you please take steps to create awareness that the practice is illegal and motivate ISPs and the sites that facilitate illegal file sharing to protect intellectual property.

Sincerely,

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