

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Intellectual Property Infringements
Date: Sunday, March 21, 2010 2:49:14 PM

Dear Ms Espinel:

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I am an artist creating art for product design and use - for example, my art is used on fabrics, ceramic goods, kitchen textiles, garden decorative products, as well as textile products such as quilts.

I have been working in art and design for over 20 years. I spend all my days, working long hours and weekends creating art and product design. For this, I am paid a royalty. When someone steals my art, I can no longer use it as I cannot guarantee the company who licenses my art for certain products, that some other company will not be using the art (Illegally) for the same product. Companies spend enormous amounts of money on product development and without a guarantee that have exclusive use of my art that will be placed on their product, they won't use it. Or if they do and another company is using it without my permission on inferior product, it will kill the legitimate product line at a great loss and expense to that company. It affects their ability to grow and has a direct affect the number of employes they hire.

And without sales from legitimate companies using my art, I receive no pay (royalties) and am unable to make a living from my creations. If my art is used on inferior products, it also reflects poorly me as a brand and damages my brand and reputation and again, my ability to make a living from what I create.

Without the art from artists, products would be bland and boring. Everything would be very generic and all creativity would be stifled. Everyone is hurt by this, not only the artists, but the public who enjoys the art. Think of what the world would look like without art.

To protect our copyrights, the copyright laws should be made even stronger. It should be made easier for the artists to go after infringers. Right now it is so expensive for an artist to sue for infringement, not to mention the time and energy spent doing so. Only the most lucrative design firms can engage in an infringement suit. Individual artist like myself, can't afford the legal costs that it takes. The laws should be made easier and less costly to enforce.

Thank you for creating this opportunity for artists to furnish their opinions and stories. I urge you to take positive action to protect artists and strengthen the copyright laws.

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