

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:40:38 PM

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Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

I would first like to thank and applaud you for your efforts in correcting this epidemic of music piracy and intellectual property theft.

This is an important issue to me because I am an independent artist who records and releases music through my own independent label. The only money that I make on music is through music and merchandise sales. I am not a celebrity. I do not have endorsement deals. I only get paid if people buy my music. This epidemic of piracy has forced me to refocus my energy on other, more stable avenues of income generation, leaving me with less time to do what I am most talented at - creating music. This is a trend that I am seeing sweep across the world of indie music right now. Some of the most talented musicians, singers, and writers are being forced to stop creating because they can no longer generate sufficient income from their art.

This is a very challenging issue to remedy because of the lack of internet controls. You cannot stop people from uploading their music (for others to download aka "file sharing") onto the internet anymore than you could stop people from recording the radio onto a cassette tape in the 80's. However, we can hold people who steal music accountable, as well as the avenues that allow music to be stolen (torrents). It is theft, plain and simple. I also feel that the public needs to be educated on the rights of musical artists. The average person is unaware of the amount of time and money that goes into the creation of a single song. Perhaps if they had some awareness of this, they would have more respect for the art. It is illegal to steal a painting from an artist from an art gallery, it is illegal to steal merchandise from a creative designer, however, there seems to be a socially accepted double standard in regards to the perception of music. There are many people who do not think that downloading their favorite song off of the internet for free is stealing. In fact, they think they are supporting the artist. I think that education, tighter regulations, and prosecution for theft are necessary to gain control over this crisis.

Thank you kindly for your time and interest in my letter. I look forward to hearing your ideas for making music a profitable business once again.

Kind regards,

Jessica Garcia from Northern Virginia  
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