

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect/promote Public Domain and Fair Use  
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Intellectual Property certainly needs to be protected, but it shouldn't be used as a vault that locks up culture. The public domain is dying by it's lack of relevance. While it is important to preserve Intellectual Property, it is equally important to preserve the cultural heritage of our nation. Too often individuals are being treated like corporations, for which our copyright laws are mostly designed for.

Fair Use needs to be better defined. If a person takes a home video of some event in their lives, and that event includes some background copyrighted material (like music playing in a wedding video, or a kid dancing around while watching Spongebob), that person should not be subject to take-down notices and litigation. As long as it is an innocent non-commercial use, or footage captured out in public, then it is only logical to declare it fair use, and immune from action by rights-holders. Courts are generally smart enough to determine this, but too often people are simply intimidated by the threat of litigation, or the the entity that hosts such video is issued a take-down notice unfairly. This needs to stop.

In recent years IP law has been too much in favor of companies, and not of our citizens and our society. This needs to change. Please consider adding protections for individuals, and allowing us to actually participate in our culture without fear of being sued into bankruptcy by doing so.