

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** songwriter's rights  
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Ms. Espinel,

I'm a songwriter based in Nashville, Tennessee.

During the last several years, I've witnessed publishing companies and record labels closing at an astounding rate....When I moved here in the early 90's there were over a dozen record labels, and probably 30 legitimate publishers.

Today there are about 4 record labels, and maybe a dozen publishers.

The reason is simple...copyright infringement from illegal downloading and file sharing has cost the music industry billions of dollars....we create the music that inspires Americans in their everyday lives..thru the good and the bad of this world....music is a powerful conduit for the human spirit, and if we as creators are not compensated for our works, then we shall cease to create.

Our local economy has suffered greatly...building after building is vacant on what was once a thriving area of Nashville called music row...again the blame lies on our ever dwindling income stream.

Most of us who write music for a living do so because we love it, but it's still a job, and no one can work for free for very long.

Without a songwriter, there would be no "God Bless America".

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support of our country's songwriters.

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