

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Intellectual Property: Listen to the people, not the lobbyists
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:13:55 PM

To whom it may concern:

Just a quick note from a commercial artist who has done a great deal of work in the music industry: The only people who share the music and film industry's draconian view of intellectual property are the CEOs, lawyers, and lobbyists of the music and film industries. Most of the artists and musicians who actually CREATE intellectual property have embraced the internet and realize that a drastic adaptation of business models is required to move these archaic industries into the digital age. If the government simply does whatever these industries want because they're the ones who can afford to send lobbyists to paint their point of view, then the consumer is the one who truly loses. These companies need to deal with the realities of the digital age by adjusting their strategies, NOT asking for the government to create ridiculous new laws to prop up their bad business models. Many artists like myself have found new ways to prosper on the internet without having to worry about our intellectual property being "stolen" (a terrible word to use for downloading!). We are thriving on the internet thanks to fresh perspectives and changing ideas - we certainly don't need to drag housewives into court, threaten families with disconnecting their internet, attempt to put undue liability onto ISPs, or try to label kids as "thieves" for taking part in illegal downloading, which has become a social norm for an entire generation thanks to the incredibly poor handling of the issue on the parts of the RIAA and the MPAA.

This is a frustrating issue because it's a complicated one that's not in the forefront of the media enough for the people to get a clear message out to the government. Every day lobbyists are hob-knobbing with congressmen, and neither parties truly understand the internet, which makes it very easy for the the lobbyist to say "these thieves are ruining our business," and very easy for a congressman who barely knows how to use his email to believe that. But the issue is far more complex than that, and there are millions of us out there who don't get to have lunch with congressmen, but have very strong opinions counter to the interests of the RIAA and MPAA. Instead of trying to be the voice of those people, I'm going to simply ask you to listen to the folks out there who are fighting for a better way: Please listen to the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Please listen to Larry Lessig from Creative Commons. Please listen to Mike Masnick from TechDirt. These are smart people with a very clear sense of where things should be going and how everyone can prosper without the need for draconian laws. These are people you should be consulting. Their comments should carry the same weight as those from the music and film industries - perhaps even more, because these people aren't just out to protect a bottom line, they're out to protect consumers, artists, creativity, and the internet as we know it. They know that our intellectual property laws can't remain the same when the internet has changed the entire landscape of the content industry.

Thank you,

Rob Sheridan, concerned artist