From:

To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Feedback about intellectual property
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:46:35 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I am a songwriter who has not only been affected by the drop in sales because of the CD sales slump but who has been affected by unauthorized covers and samples of songs. What has been an issue for me is that unauthorized singers in Europe and in the US have been releasing my songs without permission. When I discover these songs and contact the record companies they cite that they are only required to pay me five years back from the date of discovery. The record company can benefit from the proceeds until the writer discovers the infringement and refuses to share accounting. There should be a penalty for companies who release songs without permission. This issue is my concern.