From:
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty

Subject: Intellectual Property is Important for Artists

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 8:58:45 AM

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

- Dial up youtube and see the destruction to copyright holders. Blatently ripping off copyright owners for the gain of this huge corporation.
- Watch as the broadcasters utilize work for hire agreements and rip off the performance rights of composers.

I am a music composer and creator of music for film, TV and video. The decimation of the individuals right began with the court rulings that have given the broadcasters sweeping power to control and manipulate writers. Networks like Disney and Scripps have used the Direct License and Work for Hire laws to control copyright. But they have taken away a fundamental right called the "writers share of performance royalties" By allowing the direct licesne provision in the law we have decimated and undermined the abilty of millions of creative people to make a living composing music.

The Perfromance Right Organizations (PRO) which are charged at carrying out the payment of such royalties continue to collect Billions of dollars per year from Broadcaster and establishments. Yet there is no true accounting of this money. Several studies have been done and 70 percent of the music that is played on TV does not get paid out by the PRO's to the musicians who have created it. The antiquated cue sheet system is a smoke screen for both the broadcaster and the PRO to control huge sums of cash that never gets paid to the artist.

If the governmet continues to allow the work for hire and Direct license combination, creativity and our ability as a nation to lead in intellectual property will slowly bland together in a wash of mediocrity.

No other country in the world can you write music for a company and have ALL your rights taken away. No oher country on the planet. Just in the USA.

Some one should look at the laws that govern the industry. The broadcasting corporations should not be allowed to for a small fee to own the copyright and the performance royalties that are, and have been such a huge part of musical creators sustenance.

But as has been shown in the past 50 years the government works for the corporations not the music writers who fuel their profits.

Erik Blicker 1 Dorchester Avenue HOH NY 10706 Music Composer for TV, Film and Video