

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Music manager"s appeal to protect intellectual property of artistic creators
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:54:58 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and President's Barak Obama's Administration:

The Copyright Alliance and Music Managers Forum-US (the music managers trade organization) have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a representative of several musical and artistic creators.

My company Fun Palace Entertainment has been representing musical artists and writers since our formation in 1997 and I have additionally served as an executive board member for 15 years for the Music Managers Forum-US, the recognized trade group of music managers and part of the IMMF (worldwide) managers' umbrella organization. I have been an outspoken and active supporter for artists' rights in educational institutions, music venues, music conventions (panelist & manager peer group leader), and amongst my peers via the online networks.

I am extremely honored to have President Obama in office and this request to receive input from music industry professionals representing artistic creators is much appreciated. In traveling the world, particularly to the Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus, I have unfortunately noticed societies that have extremely weak protections for intellectual property rights holders... with established vendors (i.e. CD stores) openly selling 'bootlegged' / unauthorized recordings that only bring huge profits to the counterfeiters, not the artists or their representatives that created the works. Will this continue to happen in both in the digital and physical world within the United States too? Since the advent of digital music and online music sales and online radio, along with the downturn of the economy and the music business, our sector has experienced the single greatest loss of revenue paid direct to artists, all witnessed within the past five (5) years. While thousands of music lovers continue to thrive in this environment of free music (via online piracy) amidst a lax protected environment, the actual artists and writers who created such music have surely experienced depleted revenue and many have needed to supplement their income by either taking menial part-time jobs or leaving the music industry altogether. This could mark the beginning of the United States turning their creative cultures into creative voids...and thrust consumers further into the belief that music is FREE or can be copied and given away free, with total disregard to the artistic creators and people that actually made such product(s) available. Free or bootlegged music can turn the United States easily into a nation that follows the path of countries like China and Belarus, who have total disregard for the writers and creators of music, and thus have seen their own creative culture decline into 'cultural import' nations, lagging behind the West that has always been their shining cultural example!

I only ask that your department please take the necessary and requested steps to do all that is legally possible to protect the rights of writers and musicians, protect their works for their lifetimes and their children's' lifetimes...ensure that consumers worldwide must PAY for buying or downloading the creative works of artists/writers and that the income stream will actually can go to the creators/artists.

There are so many sub-businesses dependent on the works of the creators as well. There are record companies (major and independent) agents, publishers, promoters, licensors, e-commerce business, and music managers such as myself. Over the years we have only witnessed the decline of all these sectors within the music business, a key cultural identity of our American symbol. I realize everything is dollars and cents in this age, but our cultural identity and keeping our artistic creators viable and able to afford a living seems paramount as well in this age of Obama...it is especially

discouraging to read about schools cutting many of their music and arts programs during this economic downturn...but for the artists that have the abilities and hope to receive income for their creations, let's have our enlightened government protect those rights with appropriate measures suggested by their representatives.

Thank you for your outreach and willingness to receive input from music industry professionals representing the artistic creators.

Sincerely,

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