

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Intellectual Property and Risks to the Public
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010 4:16:52 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance and A2IM (the U.S. independent music label trade organization) have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I run a small independent record label that funds artists and music recordings and commercially releases them for sale. In the process of bringing a new album to market various people are employed along the way from studio owners and studio engineers, graphic artists, photographers, manufacturing plants, publicists, radio promoters and of course the artists and musicians themselves. As a small label I might invest anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 in a new project at the hopes of making a small return. I am not a major corporation, but somebody trying to sustain a middle class income running my own small business.

In recent years as the respect for intellectual property rights has disintegrated, I've lost nearly 50% of my business. The money I pay for those services mentioned above has shrunk significantly to the point where trades are disappearing because people can no longer afford to run such businesses in these fields. Copyright infringement and digital piracy are directly to blame. Before I can even bring my releases to market I often find them being distributed for FREE at file share sites like Mediafire, Rapid Share and You Send It, as well as Bit Torrent sites. Time that otherwise would have gone into marketing, promoting and ultimately selling is now devoted to issuing take down notices and policing the internet for violations of my rights.

I should also mention that many of these file share sites charge fees to their users for quicker access and transmission speeds, while also selling advertising. All of this is being done at the expense of the artist's creative property being violated. ISPs who get paid monthly by subscribers allow all this illegal activity to transpire over their networks, claiming the greyest of loopholes to get away with it.

It's appalling that not more has been done by our government to put a halt to this. My business and thus my livelihood, and that of the many people I work alongside, will not survive another five years if something isn't done soon. There's no doubt in my mind that the government also is losing billions of dollars a year in taxable revenue to rampant piracy and copyright infringement going unchecked. As transmission speeds increase with time, we are at an absolute breaking point. Please help. The creation of music isn't free. Artists and the businesses that support them dedicate their lives to this endeavor. Our product isn't worth any less than vegetables in a supermarket or clothing on a shelf of a retail outlet. If I was to walk into one of these establishments, put there goods in my bag and walk out without paying for it, I'd be arrested. It's time people stealing intellectual property are held to the same standards.

Thank you very much for your time. We are watching and counting on

you to enforce the law.

Best Regards,

Kevin Calabro
The Royal Potato Family
Brooklyn, NY
Record Label