

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: A few thoughts.
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 12:44:54 PM

Dear Ms Espinel,

My name is Albert Hammond and i am a singer-songwriter from Los Angeles California.

1. In the debate about copyright infringement, people often confuse information with creative content. In this day and age the growing opinion, especially amongst young people, is that everything should be free to consume when it comes to music, film... media. Music seems to have been thrown in the mix with the vast abundance of free information accessible on the web. "If you can look up information on anything you can think of, why can't i listen to and copy any music i can get my hands on - whether it's free or not." The distinction to be made is that creative content is not the same as information - it is a tangible creation that someone created, like an invention, or a book... a song is a tangible entity that someone created and someone owns. to infringe on copyright is stealing someone's personal property. To respect this rightful ownership and to protect the creator's right to pursue a living using his/her own creative means goes straight to the heart of American values and the American dream.

2. The US is still the leader in pop music globally as performers and songwriters - the world's biggest music acts and songwriters are those topping the US charts, and the fact still remains that for most musicians, recording artists and songwriters, you haven't really made it until you make it in the US. if we want to maintain this reputation in the world, we need the best of our creators to still want to create. To do this, they have to be able to make a living on their work.

3. There is a giant trickle-down effect when copyright infringement starts to impact people's livelihood - it is not just the artist who loses money, or the studio when a film or television show is pirated. Everyone on the food chain loses their livelihood - the writers who create the intellectual property, the producers who record and film it, the companies who package it and get it out to audiences, the publishers who represent the writers, the accounting people who collect the money and distribute it, the assistants in the recording studios, in the offices and on the sets... down to the caterers and maintenance people that supply and service these industries... the chain is endless. (Towns like Los Angeles rely on the entertainment industry to survive.) But the point is, we are all connected and when certain groups suffer and lose their ability to make a living, everyone ends up being effected eventually.

Yours sincerely

Albert Hammond (Songwriter)