

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Feedback regarding IP & copyright protection / one citizen's voice
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 4:57:16 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. I read the email from Lucinda Duggar this afternoon, and I would like to add my one small voice to the discussion about IP and copyright infringement.

Last May, I was preparing to release my second CD, "Oh, Wow!," when it became extremely apparent to me that overwhelming evidence showed that music piracy was eroding the income and livelihood of musicians such as myself. After contemplating my alternatives, I decided to *withhold my CD from the marketplace* until the government advocated on behalf of all artists more strongly. I then wrote an Open Letter, which I mailed to everyone I knew, including poets, writers, musicians, and visual artists in the US, and in other countries. (A copy of that Open Letter appears on the "Copyright Protection" page of my website; link below.) My Letter was an expression of what artists must deal with, what difficulties unchecked piracy entails for us, and suggested some possible ways we can overcome this devastating problem.

It is now ten months since I wrote that Open Letter, and I have been in contact with creative people all over the world regarding IP and copyright protection. I feel that the fact that I had to withhold the CD until I felt that stronger steps were being taken by both government and industry to safeguard our livelihood, which employs millions of people around the globe, and provides (or *should provide*) billions of dollars to support both creative workers and the economy.

Interestingly, the request from Lucinda Duggar for personal stories about IP and copyright protection specifically mentioned your appointment; however, as far back as the same week you were appointed, I had already amended the "Copyright Protection" page on my website to acknowledge that encouraging move on the President's part, and it became one of the strong reasons I decided to finally prepare to release the CD. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank President Obama for that appointment, and you, for becoming one of the beacons to which we look for assistance in our struggle for respect and self-sufficiency in our careers.

Sincerely,
Leigh Harrison

P.S. Inasmuch as both you and President Obama are -- to some extent -- responsible for the fact that I feel now more ready to release the CD, I would like to cordially invite you both to the CD release party, and --although I understand that his and your busy schedules might make that difficult -- I nevertheless, extend an invitation. I will be mentioning the Copyright Alliance, and all the other wonderful organizations working for the benefit of creative artists, on the night of the CD release party....and I'll be mentioning you, by name. Thank you again -- for being there in spirit!

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cc: info@copyrightalliance.org