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

Copyright law extends protection to the creator of a work from being abused by his fellow man and aids the establishment of a fertile soil that nurtures the creation and exchange of ideas and invention between individuals. Copyright law in essence establishes that what a man creates during his lifetime is his to govern, consume and distribute as he sees fit. It is a direct corollary of man's unalienable right to liberty.

I am deeply saddened by my fellow man's disregard for the individual's rights as a creator. I am further saddened by the government's slow response to aggressively protect the individual and his right to govern his work, from being abused by other individuals.

How has the abuse of copyright law affected me as a creator? I still create. I still seek excellence in my work. Individuals will always pursue their passions and aim for excellence. However, copyright abuse has diminished my willingness to risk capital in order to expand the visibility, and in some cases improve the quality, of my work. It is appropriate to speculate that I would be far more willing to invest in mechanisms that could potentially broaden the visibility of my work or improve the quality of my work, if I knew without a doubt that the work I created would be protected from being consumed by others without just compensation and dually protected from being freely distributed by others without consent. Creative individuals and the entire breadth of industries that fund and distribute intellectual creative property are confronted with reservations of this nature regarding the prospect of investing in the production of creative works simply because the government has not aggressively enforced the laws that govern the consumption and distribution of those works. If this trend is allowed to continue the resources available to support the creation and distribution of creative work will continue to decline and subsequently there will be less and less content created and shared amongst individuals. The end result is a society that innovates more slowly and fosters an environment that reduces the well of experiences possible in life.

One's internal sense of justice suggests that no living man should take possession of, distribute or consume another living man's work or the fruits of his labor prior to the two men establishing a mutually agreed upon arrangement concerning fair compensation. Any society that falls short of this aim is morally indefensible.

For life, liberty and pursuit of happiness,

Christopher K. Hornisch
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