

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** Humble suggestions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 12:13:49 PM

---

People will follow laws that they understand and respect and break laws that they do not understand and do not respect. Who's interests are protected by copyrights that last for 70 years after the authors death? What innovation is being fostered through lawsuits against college students? Who benefits from drug patents that prevent generic medicine being manufactured for the poor? I suspect you'll be getting a lot of emails questioning US copyright policy rather than the suggestions for preventing counterfeit toothpaste you seemed to be asking for. I hope you will understand that this is not just a bunch of pirates asking you to legitimize what they are already doing. We are genuinely concerned that the current absurd scope of copyright and the erosion of fair use expressed in contemporary IP law runs directly counter to the original intent of fostering innovation and the development of new ideas. Take our concerns seriously and we'll start taking IP law seriously. Respect our right to sample and remix and we will respect the authors right to copyright protection for a reasonable term.

Thank you for your time,  
Ian McCall