

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Copyright recommendation
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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.

I would like to see the federal government set up an office which would fight copyright infringement on the Web. I think this is the single most important step the government could take to help American writers. At present, writers must act on their own when they discover their work is being distributed on pirate websites. We should be able to report infringement to a government office without red tape and know the office will contact the infringers and see that they remove the copyrighted material.

This effort should be accompanied by a vigorous educational campaign explaining the value of copyright and its importance to creators and the American public.

I have been a selling writer since 1957. My publishing credits include novels, magazine and newspaper articles, and a long string of science fiction stories which have appeared in all the leading science fiction magazines and various anthologies. I have done my best work in the science fiction field in the novelette length-- primarily stories of 10-15000 words.

For those of us who work in these lengths, electronic publishing has created a new opportunity. We can sell individual stories over the internet as if each story is a little book. For the last ten years, a publishing company called Fictionwise has been selling electronic reprints of science fiction stories. Every time someone downloads an electronic reprint of one of my stories I receive a thirty percent royalty. This is a new market but dozens of writers have been receiving a small flow of royalties and that flow has entered a new stage of growth with the development of ereaders like the Kindle.

This is a development that benefits readers as well as writers. Print publishers can only publish books that are at least 60,000 words in length. Usually books have to be longer. Electronic works can be any length the author chooses and they can remain available indefinitely. Stories that had been out of print for thirty years have been made available at modest cost to the reader.

If this development is allowed to flourish, electronic publishing could spark a surge in creative work in the shorter lengths. But that can only happen if writers can publish their works on the internet knowing they will be paid for their efforts and they won't have to watch pirates distribute them without their permission.

This is only one example of the importance of strict enforcement of the copyright law on the web. It happens to be the issue I am most familiar with. But all American writers are dealing with some form of internet piracy.

The United States gives its writers two things-- the first amendment to the Constitution, which gives us almost unlimited freedom of expression, and the

copyright law, which gives us the opportunity to sell our works to the public. We do not receive subsidies and we have never asked for them. All we ask is the opportunity traditionally granted by our laws. Give us that, and we will continue to create one of the liveliest and most varied literatures any nation has ever produced.

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