




Subject:



Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 - Comments

Date:

Monday, March 22, 2010 4:46:50 PM

Re: Comments being requested under the PRO IP Act for Intellectual Property Enforcement

Dear Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator,

The Copyright Alliance and A2IM (the U.S. independent music label trade organization) have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I'm a producer and owner of Triple Pop, a small and truly independent record label based in Austin, Texas. Since 2007, I've employed dozens of musicians and use the services of many local based businesses – recording studios, graphic designers, CD manufacturing, etc. As our main assets are the underlying musical copyrights for audio recordings, we actively support strengthening intellectual copyright enforcement by the U.S. Government.

Copyright infringement of my label's music, which mostly occurs on the Internet from foreign based websites, takes money right out of my company's pocket. When the original Napster website launched in 2000, within less than a few years, my label's revenues rapidly declined due to rapidly declining sales from piracy. It took us in the music community many years to help fight the music should be "free" idea.

To help fight online piracy, the U.S. Government should consider creating a "music tax" on ISPs, increase penalties for copyright infringement, and step-up FBI enforcement on behalf of small U.S. based companies – perhaps even designate a special small business copyright enforcement unit.

We also actively support the Performance Rights Act – this is great legislation, as it requires radio to pay for our music they are now getting for free.

Musical recorded copyrights are the same thing as personal property. They need to be protected.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards,

Monte Robison
Austin, Texas
Triple Pop (independent record label)