From:

To: <u>FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty</u>
Subject: Intellectual Property Rights

**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:47:24 PM

March 24, 2010

Ms. Victoria Espinel U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C.

Re: Intellectual Property

Dear Ms. Espinel:

As an independent publisher and writer, I have experienced on more than one occasion the frustrations, heartaches and substantial financial losses because of piracy and the unauthorized use of my creative works (in domestic and foreign markets). In fact, I'm currently defending my works concerning two incidents of creative infringements of songs written in the 70's and unauthorized music sampling in 2008. Equally frustrating, is that I have not received creative recognition from the unauthorized usages. Nor have I received the full support of the mechanical and performing rights Societies whose responsibilities are to track, collect and distribute royalties as well as protect the rights of its members.

As it relates to piracy, as a nation we send people to the moon and beyond, why can't we stop the theft of intellectual properties. Every dollar earned from creative works that have been stolen or compromised affects the current and future earnings of all artists and publishers. Yet, creative theft is like dealing drugs, because it yields unlimited amounts of money and power to those involved. It also, gives rise to the notion that "some people believe they can take whatever they want and no one can stop them." For those who purchase the unauthorized merchandise, it means nothing more than saving a buck.

What can the U.S. Government do to better protect the rights of creative Americans? Well, including the standard sanctions and hefty fines, I think those who participate in theft should be made to help the injured party recoup lost revenues and pay advanced compensation based on the projected earnings of the creative works. Further, the offenders should be required to help the injured party generate, promote and distribute new works for a period of one to two years; or until such time as the injured party becomes self-sufficient and/or maintains a level of profitability.

If the U.S. Government can help eliminate piracy and creative infringement of American's intellectual properties, it will be a monumental victory for creative individuals and benefit the American economy overall.

Thank you for your inquiry and your willingness to take on the challenges of piracy and creative infringement.

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