

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Songwriters Rights
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 9:41:29 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

In 2003 I quit a full-time desk job on Music Row to become a professional songwriter. I had written for years and was finally brave or crazy enough, take the leap into making it my profession. It has been a beautiful, ugly and exhausting trip. But, like any passion, you do it because you feel called to do it. I was formerly a Labor Rep. standing up for performer rights for 13 years in Nashville and nationwide. Now after six years of starving and little-by little going in debt, I finally, for the first time, make a meager amount of money this year. Please don't let someone steal my royalties. As you are aware, illegal downloading and piracy erode art and creators of that art in our country and all over the world everyday. Please make laws to make this a highly visible crime. Educate the uneducated, strictly enforce Copyright Law, and severely PUNISH the people scheming to make money off the backs of copyrighted materials.

It is an extremely hard road being self-employed and enduring the political landscape of the music business. To have my money stolen, once I have a little success, is criminal and a financial devastation my family.

Thank you for speaking out for creative people like me, the large majority who are not rich, but who toil daily trying to make art that touches, heals and inspires the listener in some special way.

Morry Trent
Franklin, TN
Songwriter/Publisher

P.S.- Let me know if I can help you further in any way regarding this issue.