

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Intellectual Property
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 7:04:28 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration:

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

As a freelance writer, the unauthorized copying, sale, and distribution of my intellectual property affects my bottom line, in addition to inhibiting my creativity.

I am the author of several self-published nonfiction books related to my writing business, and the fact that the pirates have stolen--yes, stolen--my work means a significant decline both in terms of royalties for my books and in terms of sale for my writing business.

As writing is my livelihood--I do not have a "corporate America" job to fall back on--how am I supposed to pay my bills? The general public seems to have the attitude that books and all other creative content should be free, but I have worked for ten years building my writing business--and it is a business. Why shouldn't I be compensated for my work? And yes, writing is work. Hard work.

I am also the writer of several novels which I hope to send out to the world via the traditional publishing route, but with piracy affecting not only royalties but the publishing industry itself, part of me is holding back. And money is not the only issue. My creative control of my work--characters and worlds that I have spent a decade of my life building--is at stake.

When I registered my first book with the U.S. Copyright Office several years ago, I had what I believed to be a reasonable expectation that my work was "protected," but now I find that the copyright is virtually meaningless, and the fee I paid for the copyright a waste of money I frankly didn't have to begin with.

A copyright needs to stand for something. The rights of writers, and other creative artists, are being flagrantly ignored, and I hope that the Obama administration will do its part to change the publishing model, or else who knows what the world will never know, will never read. There are books out there that have the ability to literally change the world, but with writers under the attack that they are from the pirates, many will simply decide not to send their precious work out into the world. That would be a shame, for the publishing industry and for our children.

If for no other reason than economic, change is necessary. The publishing industry engenders jobs, and not just for writers. When you eliminate these jobs, a ripple effect ensues. If I am not paid for my work, I must cut expenses. It is that simple. Piracy affects the entire nation, from the doctor I can't afford to see, to the mechanic, to the grocery store clerk.

Thank you for tackling this tough issue. Regulations regarding copyright need to be instituted and upheld. The public also needs to be educated about the true effects of the piracy of intellectual property. My work--my time, my labor, the physical and emotional toll it takes on me--is deserving of respect. I pour my heart and soul into everything I write. But lately I have to wonder if it is all worth it.

What if our great writers--the Nobel Prize winners, those who have literally altered the course of history--had never written, never showcased their work--their words--to the world? Think about all the great writers yet to come. Do we as a nation really want to stifle them? Silence them? Then we will never know what they could have done for us.

Nothing is more valuable, perhaps, than an idea. And perhaps no other administration in this great nation's recent history has understood that truth better than the current one. So I urge you to validate the writers, and other creative artists, by upholding the concept and rights of copyright.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Turello
Staten Island, New York
Writer