

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Attn: Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration re: intellectual property infringement
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:34:55 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel:

As a songwriter, intellectual property rights are a very important concern of mine. I have watched while record companies and record stores have closed one by one all over the country. Music publishers have stopped signing new songwriters in general. The business of music has slid downhill rapidly due to illegal downloading which affects not only the artists and songwriters but everyone who helps run the music machine. (distributors, music video makers, graphics, merchandise, arrangers, recording studios, producers, etc..)

Music creators will stop creating as much without proper development and support and have to spend their time at full time jobs and do music as a "hobby". Only the most commercial music backed by people concerned about profit will be marketed. The artistic essence is being sucked dry.

It has been a disgrace how the public has been allowed access to technology which allows them to get their music for free. Many of the teen generation take it for granted now. If they can send men to the moon they should be able to make technology that stops this. Too often I hear about the poor consumer and how expensive records are!

Records are a mere 15.00 at the most. The amount of work that goes into one record is huge! An artist usually takes an entire year to write and record a record. Record prices have not gone up in years. This is not a lot to ask. One major artist embedded some type of microchip that would shut down a computer if it was copied, this is the type of thinking that needs to be addressed. There should be consequences for illegal copying.

Another horrifying business that goes along with no one questioning it, is the sale of 2nd hand record sales which is a flourishing business. This is another huge form of thievery. Too often people buy a record - listen/copy it and then return it within 2 weeks for either money or trade for another record. The artist does not get paid for the 2nd sale and I think this is a huge mistake. These second hand record stores should not be able to sell records without compensating the artists/songwriters/record labels some type of payment.

Since a lot of people download music illegally now since it's so universally accepted to trade music, public education where people are shown that it takes away people's livelihoods would also be good. Many people don't take the time to think of the consequences. Just like the drunk driving advertising campaigns, there should be campaigns to teach the consumer this is wrong.

The Los Angeles Times ran an article awhile back and they had pictures of some kids with self righteous smirks on their faces who were caught downloading and being prosecuted. They acted like it was their right. This attitude has got to be stomped out.

Thank you for your time and good luck with this issue of protecting

songwriter's rights which has been sorely neglected for too long and has reached crisis stages.

D. Williamson
Los Angeles, CA