


Date:


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Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

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 have worked in the music industry both here and overseas since I was 19 years old, primarily on the talent acquisition side, helping nurture young talent from sometimes as early as 6 months into their careers as potential artists and writers looking to make a career in this field. The first 10 years were in the A&R (artiste and repertoire) field, signing young artists to labels and then within Creative teams at various music publishing companies, including EMI Music Publishing and now Cherry Lane Music.

I firmly believe that the only way artists and songwriters will be able to continue to build a career within this field is if they are compensated for the early successes they have (as well as the larger successes later). Rock'n Roll has always been build upon a dream, and that has tended to include a dream of some financial benefits, but if music continues to be considered "free" then these talented young people will make the decision to hone their talents elsewhere.

In so many other Global territories, even the governments choose to augment these beginners with music grants and other means of inspiring them to continue on this path, primarily because they see the benefits of having that wonderful export called "music" continue to succeed in overseas markets.. This is in danger of drying up in the US should an entire generation of writers and artists not get compensated for their work by the piracy gaining any further ground.

I truly hope you continue to look at ways of encouraging the consumer to not look at this as a free market, and that compensation for the creators and industry as a whole can continue..

Thank you,

Paul

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