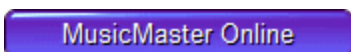


From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Music Copyrights and Performance Royalties
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:10:45 PM

I've always believed that the current methods for protecting the copyrights and performance royalties of recorded music were cumbersome and unenforceable. This entire mess could be cleaned up and billions of dollars saved by making a new tax on digital media. This tax would apply to any storage device, such as memory cards, hard drives, blank CD's and DVD's, and even Internet storage space. The tax would replace all royalties, performance fees, and other fees collected now through agencies like ASCAP/BMI and SoundExchange. Money collected through this tax would be directed back to the artists directly by a new government agency and proportioned to each artists based on a factor that would take into account that artist's recent airplay, CD or DVD sales, and digital downloads. In other words, the most popular artists would get the most money. Artists that are barely heard would get almost nothing. This is how the system works today, anyway. This would simplify the movement of these payments from consumer to artist and eliminate a lot of unnecessary layers of collection agencies. It would also create a level playing field for big record companies, independent labels, and even unsigned new artists, so that all music and video could be made available for free via digital download. The artists would be paid through the media tax, rather than relying on sales proceeds. I believe that offering consumers free music downloads would greatly stimulate the sales of storage media, which would boost that high tech industry, create many jobs, and result in much higher revenues for artists and record companies. This change would also eliminate entry barriers for struggling new artists, opening the door for anyone, regardless of ethnicity, race, or financial status, to be properly compensated for their work when that work is recognized and appreciated by the public.



[Joseph J Knapp](#)
[President, A-Ware Software, Inc.](#)
[330 S. Executive Dr. #205](#)
[Brookfield, WI 53005](#)
[+1 262-786-6519](#)
[Skype: joeknapp](#)
[Twitter: @jjknappster](#)





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