

From:

To:

Date:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and Protection
Saturday, March 20, 2010 10:16:07 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

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 am a songwriter and producer working out of LA. I had hoped to make a full time career of my trade but my first CD came out in 1999 just when Napster was at it's peak. I saw, first hand, the damage that file sharing can do to someone's career. I was contacted by many fans who told me how much they enjoyed my music with some even admitting that they got the music through Napster. I can understand that our culture is based on money and if someone can get something for free, they will. To this end I believe that it's important to impress upon people that while there are a few artists who make tons of money, there are thousands of us who can't even make a living if people are sharing our music. I will often tell people that in 1968 an album cost \$10 and today an album on iTunes costs \$10. Taking into consideration the rate of inflation that album today should cost \$100!!

I trust that you will try and educate the public on our blight and put some teeth into the laws that we have.

Thank you,
Michael Monagan
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