

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: US Intellectual Property Enforcement
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 3:34:36 PM

March 23, 2010

Intellectual Property Committee
Washington, DC
Attention: Ms. Espinel

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 the Sr. Vice President of the Publishing and Licensing Division of a major independent recording company that represents five record labels and a music licensing library. We are based in Los Angeles, CA., and have label representation in several states as well as distribution worldwide through major retail music distributors.

We own over 125 master recordings, 2,000 songs and have represented nearly a 100 artists directly, and hundreds if not thousands of creative Americans indirectly. I have serviced the music community for over 25 years as a record label owner, personal entertainment manager, and record label executive.

Sound Recordings and Music Compositions are the foundation of our business. Without stronger, more assertive, protection of intellectual rights from gratis use, piracy and fraud, our business cannot survive. Over the past ten years, with both the evolution of technology and the growing attitude that "*music is a free privilege and we shouldn't have to pay for it*", it has become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to protect our intellectual rights. We have watched our business and the music industry decline severely over these past years. The gross income of our creative businesses have declined by as much as fifty percent. We've watched composers and artists who once had the opportunity to make their living as creatives have to find other means to derive income. The current situation in our industry and the lack of protecting these copyrights is driving art out of America.

Our composers, and artists need a stronger voice and increased involvement by the Federal Government and Intellectual Property and Copyrights Board to enforce tighter regulations of our musical copyrights. We need to protect the livelihood our composers, artists, musicians, engineers, and all those involved in artistic development whose ability to work and support their families is based on protecting their copyrights and being paid their royalties for those intellectual works.

Ms. Espinel: We look to you and your organization to protect the Creatives in America. We need tighter policies against infringement of our intellectual properties. We, as a people and nation, need to stop pirating our creative resources, stop selling counterfeit products, and protect American creative works. ART is a crucial and necessary product in America – it speaks to who we are as a society and what we believe as a people. Infringement of our copyrights negatively impacts the economy and employment opportunities in the United States individually and collectively.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and appreciate the work you and

your team are doing to strengthen our creative community.

My best,
Creative American