

## Copyright

To Whom it May Concern:

The way this current system that has to deal with works that have been protected by a copyright, clearly are not helping so much. In my particular field of music, we see music getting pirated online on a minute-to-minute basis. I know for a fact, that the music industry isn't the only one that is being harmed by works being pirated or getting obtained in an illegal manner. This has been going on for far to long. There has to be a more harsh punishment for works that go onto websites where it is easily obtained for free.

Anyone who has internet access, can easily go to any torrent site or any site that site that has copy written work on its website that is allowed to be downloaded for free. There needs to either be a shut down of these sites or possibly a more harsher punishment for the people that are violating these copyrights. Within the music industry it is not only affecting record sales, but it is affecting the most important thing, which is the artist.

Of course the person pirating a particular work that has a copyright will give an excuse by saying that pirating is in favor of the artist because it broadens the listeners music style and opens them up to new and maybe underground artists. I feel that this is totally untruthful. Sure, it may open up listener's eyes to a new artist, but there is much more at stake than just that. A copyright is supposed to help an artist against pirates and having their works being used or listened to in an illegal manner. It costs these artists money that they've worked hard for. There needs to be a stop to this. I feel that the government is not working or patrolling this hard enough and they really should focus more of their energy on this as opposed to things that don't matter or are not hurting an individuals work of art.

I am a senior at Columbia College Chicago and am graduating in May. After I complete this journey of my life, I would love to go to grad school and continue my dream of becoming a copyright lawyer. With the current state of the music industry and how copyrights don't even help an artist anymore, I am fearful that my dream may be crumbled because of the lack of patrolling or punishing of people who break the law and steal work that has a copyright on it from an artist.

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to seeing what actions are taken on this matter.

Adam Novak