

The RIAA recently announced that they will begin suing individual users of P2P software before the summer is out. This is only the most recent development in a campaign that is putting companies out of business, forcing college students to hand over tens of thousands of dollars, and bullying ISPs into betraying your trust. Adding insult to injury, these tactics don't earn a single penny for the artists you love. It is time to change the laws that the RIAA relies upon to bully the public. There are over 60 million Americans using P2P today, and you **can** make a difference. Send this letter and urge Congress to hold hearings on using P2P to get artists paid.

Dear Congressperson,

I write today because I am gravely concerned about the escalating situation between the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the over 60 million Americans who use peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing software. As a constituent, I urge you to call for Congressional hearings on how to compensate artists without breaking the Internet or turning millions of American citizens into criminals.

The current state of affairs is unacceptable and it appears to be getting worse. Recently, the RIAA declared war on the American public by announcing a plan to violate the privacy of hundreds of P2P users and then use the information to sue each of them for thousands of dollars. Senator Orrin Hatch has publicly voiced support for technology that could destroy a P2P user's computer in order to "educate" her about copyright. The RIAA continues to sue students, technology companies, venture capitalists, and anyone else who dares to support file-sharing technology. It is also continuing its efforts to use the Digital Millennium Copyright Act to violate the privacy of thousands of Americans by issuing identity-seeking subpoenas. It is time to take a stand, and I am relying on you to take the lead on protecting my rights and the rights of the thousands of other constituents who are just like me.

We need to start looking for solutions to the real problem: getting artists paid. Neither the RIAA's litigation nor vigilante legislation will put a single penny into the pocket of an artist or songwriter. As Congress has done in the past when new technologies emerged to challenge old media companies, I urge you to call for hearings on P2P. The public deserves to hear about the merits of alternative payment models, compulsory licensing, and the benefits of file-sharing. This is a conversation that must take place in Congress, not the courts.

I support compensation for artists and songwriters, and I also believe that the law should reflect the norms of society. Copyright is currently out of step with the American public and it is time to take a hard look at how we might fix it. I hope that you will help start this dialogue by calling for public hearings on P2P. I also urge you to work with the Electronic Frontier Foundation and other public interest groups to ensure that all sides in this debate are heard. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,