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From: Matt Grady

Sent: February 16, 2012 11:32 AM

To: ~Legislative Committee Bill C-11/Comité législatif loi C-11

Subject: Attn: Legislative Committee on Bill C-11

To The Legislative Committee on Bill C-11:

My name is Matt Grady. I am head engineer and producer based out of EMAC Recording Studios in London Ontario, a company that has been in business for 30+ years. I have dedicated my professional and a large part of my personal life to the pursuit of excellence in audio recording and have logged over 8,000 hours in professional recording facilities. My modest income is derived directly from the recording industry and I support my family with it. In order for me to survive as a recording engineer I must attract new and repeat creative clients to use my services to achieve a product up to the highest industry standards and maximize their potential. The artists that work with me invest thousands of dollars of their own money into this craft, often in hopes that they will be able to sell enough of their product to sustain a living on it and continue their creative pursuits in music.

I am writing this letter to express my concerns for the future of the music business in Canada relating to the sales robbing element of online file trading and piracy. Due to the overwhelming damaging effects of online piracy, the artists I work with have very little hopes of recouping the money they invest in their craft through the sales of their music, be it online or in physical format. Any time a band I have worked with generates a positive public response it is inevitable that without their songs end up available for free download online without the band's consent.

A common argument against the current legislation presented in C-11 is that the climate has changed in the industry and so bands must give their songs away for free to compete and make up that lost revenue in concert and merchandise sales. In the often cited cases of major bands like Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails, who have tried this method, it has been undoubtedly proven that this model does not allow for recoupment and re-investment. It should be the artist's choice of how to distribute and market their work.

We have an incredible base of musical talent in Canada. It should be the duty of our Government to protect and nurture this resource in order to see this industry with endless possibilities flourish. There must be enforcement when it comes to protecting the well established rights of copyright holders. The music industry will see incredible advancements in creative and financial aspects if there are fair and balanced protective measures in place to prevent the illegal download of its artists' work.

On a more personal note, the polarization of this issue is sickening to me at times. People seem to believe that by reforming internet copyright laws and enforcement they

will somehow be subject to an unfair level of censorship, and will see a diminished level of creativity based on the lack of inspirational online material. I'm not speaking to those who admittedly pirate and defend their positions as thieves but more to those who are blinded by the propaganda put forth by bloggers paid by the companies who benefit directly from online piracy. The middle ground for me is a situation where artists are protected from having their material exchanged for free without their consent and the fines and prosecution are directed to those companies that HOST the material. Not those who post it, or those who consume it. The hosts of these sites are directly benefiting from another person's work via advertising on the sites and are not paying anything back to those who created the very product that allows them to earn this money.

It is my sincere hopes that these points are considered and help to move us as Canadian artists forward into a world where the works produced are available for a cost determined by those who created it and are protected from infringements on those rights.

Matt Grady