

Legislative Committee Members:

My name is Corey Poole and I am a working musician residing in Toronto. I am writing to first thank you for your attention and support thus far for Bill C-32. I believe this Bill is very important not only to Canada's colourful and fertile music industry, but every creative industry in Canada, as we are all at the mercy of intellectual property laws.

As an artist and advocate for Bill C-32 I am often presented with the opposing view that music should be free because the profits from record sales only benefit label 'fat cats'. This argument offends me, as it is ignorant of both the greatly varied models of artist representation and release methods in Canada's music industry, and as it denies the value that label representation can have for an artist's career.

I am signed to a Canadian independent record label with distribution through one of North America's largest channels. My record deal, which is considered fairly favourable towards artists, has the label front the cost for recording, mixing, mastering, physical production and promotion. My band then pays back that cost through CD sales, online sales and licensing for commercial use. Once that debt has been repaid, the band would begin to profit from these sales. This model allowed us to craft a release of professional quality while still earning some money through live performances and off-stage merchandise sales. We made the record on a modest budget with a very "no frills" approach. From 2008 to 2010 we had about 600 recorded sales of our debut release. Recently a friend passed on that he had discovered that on one peer-to-peer site that same debut release was victim to around 20,000 illegal downloads.

I do not necessarily believe that each one of these downloads counts as a missing sale. Hypothetically if they had though, each of my band mates would have earned a modest year's salary from that one site's statistics alone. Clearly the interest is there but due to rampant piracy of music we are still paying back our first, and attempting to fund our follow up release. We are all also now working full-time with less and less time to focus on music. Because we and many other artists have less to spend on recording, mixing and mastering, talented engineers and many others are in a position where their livelihood is being exploited. Over my few years in the industry I've noticed that despite claims about wanting to support artists at their concerts, many people still seem reluctant to pay more than five dollars to see a bill of two or three local or independent acts.

What has happened to Canada's music industry is impossible for me to ignore as I've witnessed the incredible amount of work and creativity that gets insulted and trampled on everyday. Though musicians have received much of the press associated with large scale loss due to online piracy, I represent just one small part of the Canadian music industry, which for the better part of a decade has been crumbling. It is obviously not just musicians who are suffering. The film, book, video game and any other industry that depends on the enforcement of fair intellectual property laws has a huge investment in the outcome of Bill C-32.

For the sake of every Canadian creative and digital industry and every individual already harmed by the severe injustice taking place, please help to see that Bill C-32 gets passed. I am positive we can repair the damage that has been done to

our creative industries and that we will emerge stronger and with a more defined Canadian identity than ever.

Thank you for your attention and hard work on behalf of the people of Canada.

Sincerely,

Corey Poole