



March 3, 2000

The Honorable Daniel F. Clark
Chair, Subcommittee on the Courts
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
401 South Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1980 currently in front of your subcommittee on the Courts. On behalf of the Recording Industry Association of America ("RIAA") and its members, we support the intent of this bill but oppose the bill as currently drafted.

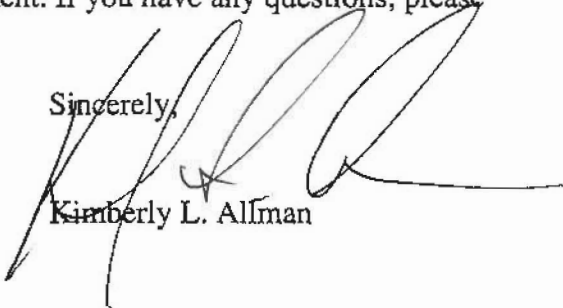
The members of the RIAA create, manufacture and distribute more than 90% of the legitimate sound recordings sold in the United States. Our members are responsible for bringing the world some of the best sound recording artists of our time - Garth Brooks, Shania Twain and Britney Spears to name just a few.

The RIAA supports the idea of protecting living and deceased personalities from unauthorized uses. However, HB 1980 does not include exemptions for established categories of creative expression, including our musical recordings. Music has a rich history in social commentary. For recording artists, the freedom to comment is an integral feature of their ability to create and connect with generations of audiences.

We support an amendment, attached for your review, that would exempt audiovisual and musical work from HB 1980. Without the proposed amendment, the bill would create needless lawsuits and require an artist to obtain approval before using a name in a song or a likeness in a music video on each and every recording.

We respectfully request adoption of the amendment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-857-9603.

Sincerely,


Kimberly L. Allman

Enclosure

cc: Representative Thomas Gannon
Representative Frank Dermody