

Name: Graham Andrews

Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #2 (DVD Region Coding):  
Audiovisual works stored on Digital Versatile Disks ("DVDs") that are not  
available in Region 1 DVD format and access to which is prevented by  
technological measures.

Summary:

Disc name: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone; "Dilbert".

As a great fan of Japanese animated shows, I find it very difficult to get to the content I really want to see. When a US company gets ahold of a Japanese show, they often change the dialogue, scenes or even entire plot to fit what they believe are my interests. In fact many of these shows lose their meaning or final message somewhere during the dubbing and cutting. However, my interests are in seeing the foreign film for what it is and what it was meant to be. Some shows are so badly mangled that it is impossible to enjoy them, and a crude VHS copy must be purchased through various means if you ever want to see the show as it was meant to be seen. One of the best places to come in contact with new shows are the annual anime conventions which happen around the country. Often at these conventions I will see original DVDs of these shows available, but I am unable to play them without a correctly encoded DVD player. If I wanted to see these shows on DVD in their true format, I would need to buy a whole second DVD player on which I would play Japanese DVD's only, costing upwards of \$150. I feel that this is a form of cultural and economic blindfolding, because it keeps Americans ignorant of foreign art forms and media which would otherwise expose them to a new and different culture. This unfairly requires that all foreign shows must first be licensed and produced by an American company, and often deprived of the things which made the show truly different and worth watching.