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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: Tokyo Love Story

The problem is not that I purchased a product and was then unable to play it. The problem is that "Tokyo Love Story," like many other foreign films, is not available on a Region 1 or Region 0 DVD. Therefore I cannot view them with my Region 1 system. The Region encoding system is an arbitrary extralegal trade barrier. It is perfectly legal for me to import these DVDs under U.S. law. But because of the Region encoding, I am prevented from watching them, not because of any fundamental compatibility issues, but because of an arbitrary marketing decision. The Region encoding system has made U.S. studios the gatekeepers of American film. Until a film finds a U.S. DVD distributor or a foreign distributor takes the time and expense to produce DVDs that can only be used in a foreign country, we here in the U.S. cannot watch it. As another example, consider the case of "Hero," China's entry to this year's Oscars. The film has only been shown once or twice in the U.S. It is not due for a general release here until sometime next year. By that time, it will already be legally available on DVDs in China, Europe, Japan and other areas, but we here in the U.S. will have to wait until its American distributor chooses to release it. Not only does this prevent me from watching the film when I choose, it permits the distributor to artificially inflate the prices on the DVD. They will not have to face competition from Chinese DVDs and can therefore charge me a higher price for what is, essentially, the same product. That is nothing more than price inflation and censorship. Therefore, even though I can legally import these DVDs under U.S. law I cannot watch them by Hollywood's Region encoding system.