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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: Wild Zero

I would like an exemption for region-coded DVDs, because the DVD I purchased of a Japanese movie would not play in my the DVD player I purchased in the United States. One of my friends had a VHS copy of a Japanese movie called Wild Zero. The movie, a rock-and-roll, B-Rate horror movie that's the equivalent of Night of the Living Dead meets Rock & Roll High School, was probably one of the funniest things I have ever seen. I set out on a quest to find Wild Zero on DVD. I finally came across it on a Japanese mail-order website. I purchased the DVD for 6,242 Yen, or approximately \$50.00. After two weeks, I finally got my copy of Wild Zero. ...or did I? Wild Zero is on a Region 2 DVD. I can only play Region 1 DVDs on my DVD player. So, I have a problem. I first tried ripping the DVD into SVCDs, but was unsuccessful in doing so. My PC, which, at the time, was an AMD Athlon 1400 mhz PC with 1 gb of 133 mhz RAM, isn't exactly a slow machine. I wanted to get DVD quality, and I failed after three days of work. The solution that I found is equally likely a violaton of DMCA 1201. I have an Apex DVD player. To facilitate multiple regions, Apex designed the player with a flash ROM chip that could be updated with the proper version of the firmware for the proper region. I downloaded a CD image off the Internet of the Australian DVD player firmware, which is region-free and Macrovision-free. After updating my DVD player, I was happy to find that my movie played. I never pirated a movie, nor did I have any desire to pirate one. I went through an ordeal to watch a movie that will most likely never come to the United States, and I suppose I could be prosecuted and/or fined \$250,000 simply for altering my DVD player so that I could watch a movie that I lawfully purchased in the privacy of my own home. I'm not wealthy; I'm a college student. I couldn't fly around the world and by different DVD players to accomidate the various regions that the DVD-CCA has created, nor do I want to. I just want to watch movies - movies that I purchased, and movies that I purchased from the proper, legal owner. The reality is, I don't want to pirate DVDs. Why would I? I buy from a very small niche of DVDs - anime and imports - and if I don't pay for them, American companies might not want to buy the rights for future shows, and I'd have to spend \$50 like I did for Wild Zero to watch them. I want the proper content owner to get paid for my purchase, but I also want to be able to watch these DVDs.