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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: Doctor Who, The Tomorrow People, and many others

I learned about region coding early. The first DVD I wanted to buy was available only in Britain. Since I'm an Anglophile, most of my DVD collection has been purchased from Britain (via the Internet). Most of the DVDs I have have not been released in the US; those which have were released several *years* after I got them. (And at higher prices, even when the unfavorable foreign exchange rate and overseas shipping was figured in.) I soon discovered that no DVD player sold in the US would play British DVDs. I looked into getting a DVD player from Britain, but they only worked with British televisions, and I didn't want to buy a second television. Finally I ordered, from Australia, a multi-region PAL/NTSC-converting DVD player made in China, despite several hundred dollars in overseas shipping charges.

(Apparently multi-region DVD players are sold by a couple of companies in the US now, but not then.) The fact that nobody was selling a multi-region player was strange enough. The idea that it could actually be illegal to sell or use one is scary and fascist. Of course, I still can't carry one of my DVDs over to a friend's house and show it there, unless I carry my DVD player too. I've resorted to telling my friends that they have to visit me instead. Or if that's not possible, I copy the DVD onto a videotape (and thank goodness I have a VCR which doesn't respect Macrovision.) I'm a good customer; I've probably bought around 80 DVDs and over 100 commercial videotapes. Why does the DVD Consortium want to make me a criminal?