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# Society for Cinema and Media Studies

University of Oklahoma, 640 Parrington Oval, Room 302, Norman, OK 73019  
Phone: (405) 325-8075 Fax: (405) 325-7135 E-mail: [office@cmstudies.org](mailto:office@cmstudies.org)

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President: Stephen Prince, Virginia Tech

Secretary: Susan Ohmer, University of Notre Dame

President Elect: Patrice Petro, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Treasurer: Amy Villarejo, Cornell University

January 21, 2006

Marybeth Peters  
Register of Copyrights

Dear Marybeth Peters:

I am writing as President of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), the world's largest organization of film academics and scholars. In connection with comment 5, SCMS supports an exemption for all of the classes proposed in the comment filed by Decherney, et al. These classes are: (Class One) Audiovisual works included in the educational library of a college or university's film or media studies department and that are protected by technological measures that prevent their educational use, and (Class Two) Derivative and collective works which contain audiovisual works that are in the public domain and that are protected by technological measures that prevent their educational use.

As an organization composed of film professors and scholars, SCMS supports an educational exemption for these classes of works. One of the missions of the Society is to preserve our cultural heritage of film by educating students about film history and filmmaking traditions. Many of these students go on to become filmmakers. Thus, this mission, in turn, helps to shape contemporary filmmaking and visual culture. A vital part of classroom instruction is the use of film clips from legally obtained DVDs used to demonstrate key concepts, much like a literature class would proceed by reading key passages from a novel under study.

The members of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies strongly believe that an exemption should be made for the educational context. We must have an exemption from the prohibition on the circumvention of technological measures that limit access to copyrighted works in the classes described by Decherney, et al. As analog copies of film

works disappear in an increasingly digital universe, the cinema must remain accessible to educational study.

Sincerely

Stephen Prince  
President, Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
Professor of Communication, Virginia Tech  
540-231-5044  
FAX 540-231-9817

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**Devoted to the Scholarly Study of Film, Television, Video, and New Media**

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