

My name is Lucas Smith. I am a college student who is deeply concerned with the direction copyright law in the United States is heading. I have learned of this comment opportunity from the EFF, who encouraged me to identify my comments as associated with comment numbers 7A and 7B.

It is essential that video remixing isn't limited by legal threats. As a an occasional documentarist and frequent video editor, I recognize the importance of fair use. Fair use allows commentary on events, discussion of media and culture, and the use of imagery and copyrighted names and video that is necessary to convey certain valid points. Fair use is essential to free speech, and free speech is essential to a free society. It is important that all Americans are allowed to access the media they are allowed to use and remix even when content creators try to limit this access. Thus, I urge the Copyright Office to never restrict Americans' ability to break encryption of DVDs and other legally obtained media for the purposes of obtaining source material that will be legally remixed. To do otherwise would be one of the most serious mistakes anyone could make.