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To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/25/2005

From: Kim a Price

Comment:

Dear copyright officials:

I am writing to urge you to consider reforming the current, cumbersome copyright system so that important, innovative and thought-provoking artistic endeavors and scholarly projects can be fully realized and available.

It pains me to think that it is possible that a work such as the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary would no longer be available to the public because of copyright issues. The documentary has proven to be an effective learning tool in undergraduate and high school courses.

About fifteen years ago as an undergraduate, I had the opportunity to view the documentary in several of my college history courses. Much of my understanding of the impact of the civil rights movement in the United States stems from that powerful documentary. The use of photos, film clips and popular songs of the era made the film and that historical period "come alive" for me--more than any textbook alone could have. I don't think that the documentary would have had the same visceral impact without those copyrighted works.

Now that the reissue of the documentary hangs in the balance, it saddens me to think that generations of students following me may never get the learning opportunity I got through that documentary. Therefore, I urge you to resolve this issue as quickly as possible so that important cultural works are not lost forever.