



To: US Copyright Office
From: National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA)
Re: Comments on AI Inquiry Notice

The National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA) speaks for close to one million Americans who make a living either as professional voice actors or as part of their surrounding ecosystem (including engineers, writers, and directors).

Let us be clear: unless the U.S. Copyright Office takes active measures to ensure full and fair copyright protection for voice actors over their sound recordings, in any and all formats, then the unregulated and unchecked growth of audio AI will lead to the end of the voice acting profession.

Currently, anyone can use AI to capture the recorded voice of an actor from content available on the internet and then use that sample to either train AI datasets or use AI products to replicate the actor's voice to create new works for sale or non-commercial distribution. Each and every time this occurs without the informed consent of, and fair compensation to, the voice actor, the value of the actor's voice is unfairly diluted and diminished. Absent copyright protection, we envision audio AI creating a market for pirated sound recordings that will unjustly eliminate the ability of all professional voice actors to earn any living.

Voice actors are not new to the dangers of AI. Regrettably, we too often have heard and been personally and professionally damaged by the unlawful uses of audio AI. NAVA has many voice actors among its membership that have had their copyrighted professional sound recordings stolen and unjustly altered to create messages of violence, hatred, sexual abuse, and disinformation. These AI-generated messages then become widely available on social media and the internet, resulting in reputational, financial, and emotional harm to the voice actor.

No voice actor should be forced to confront the sound of their voice being generated by AI for public distribution in ways for which the actor had neither consent, control nor compensation.



NAVA calls upon the U.S. Copyright Office to enforce existing copyright protections for recorded audio, extend its protections to the professional voice actor community and:

1. Ensure that existing copyright protections over sound recordings are extended and maintained with respect to audio AI to protect professional voice actors;
2. Adopt and enforce rules and regulations that define and minimize the current “fair use” protections to protect professional voice actors from the unfair abuse of copyrighted sound recordings generated by AI; and
3. Prior to granting copyright protection over any new sound recording generated, in whole or in part, by AI, compel transparency and full disclosure with respect to the audio files and data used to generate that sound recording from the person(s) seeking copyright protection.

NAVA does not seek to thwart the benefits provided by AI to the public. Rather, NAVA seeks to promote an environment in which AI is used lawfully and responsibly without causing undue harm to the rights of voice actors, or anyone with recorded audio. The U.S. Copyright Office must exercise its powers toward this same end.