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**Subject:** Intellectual Property  
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Dear Ms Espinel,

ASMP and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

As a photographer, I make a sizable portion of my living by licensing the usage of photographs I have created. In fact, as a freelancer, I regard my picture archives as a significant portion of my old-age pension.

My rights need to be strongly protected against infringement, particularly in this digital age where it has become so easy for infringers to appropriate images from the internet and by scanning printed materials. I do whatever I can to protect my ownership of images I create: I stamp a copyright notice on slides and prints, write clear usage terms in my invoicing and often directly on CDs containing digital images, place a copyright notice on my various websites and online picture sets, embed metadata within all digital files I distribute, and in many cases include a subtle copyright watermark in a lower corner of digital images.

Thankfully, recent advances in the Copyright Office's submission procedures, such as bulk registration, have eased the burden of registering images for copyright. And legal consequences of piracy of registered work has also, in recent years, become more enforceable.

But the question of Orphan Works remains largely unsolved. Unauthorized users and appropriators of images cannot be let off scot-free, because piracy truly is theft. When Congress re-considers this question, hopefully they will find some solution that will make it incumbent upon image users to go the whole nine yards to determine authorship of a photograph before simply appropriating it.

I hope you will take my comments into account, and pass them along to the Joint Strategic Plan team. Thank you for your consideration.

Peace and Blessings,

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