



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 an independent commercial photographer, I am not only the smallest of small businesses, but also one

who relies upon being fairly compensated for my creative output.

In recent time, there continues to be an assault on independent creators like myself, in the sense that

our ability to earn a living from our creations is getting increasingly difficult. Whether it's the mindset that

creations, such as photographs, have little or no value, or should be free, or to the fact that some DO recognize that there

is value, and our ability to fend off the assault on those rights can be nearly impossible to defend. Large corporations have virtually

unlimited resources to bring to bear against small entities such as myself. The ability to pursue infringements is very limited.

A streamlined copyright registration, as is being evolved, is the starting point,

and a coordinated campaign of some kind to drive home the fact that creators have viable rights

is sorely needed. Without protection and the ability to profit from creations, in this case images, there is no incentive to

continue to produce creative content. We need to feel that the rights of "the little guy" are being considered and safeguarded.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Hart
www.hartphoto.com

Houston, Texas

