

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty; info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Strengthen, don't weaken, intellectual property law
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6:35:00 PM

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.

Intellectual property rights allow me as a photographer to protect my work product, and ensure that I am appropriately compensated for the use of my work and ideas.

The ease of marketing to prospects and sharing with clients digital work comes at a price to the creator. In my work, I'm seeing that it is easier, faster, and less stigmatized to copy and use photographs now that my work is digital. My photos have often been used without neither permission nor compensation, and - for the most part - when I ask the user for payment or removal, most are apologetic and genuinely unaware of their infringement. However, some users are belligerent and truly think that because they've found my work on the internet it should be free. My only protection from these abusers is copyright law. Please do not weaken my protections or that of my work. I want to be able to find my works in use, whether as "orphans" - so easy to create digitally - or as pirated work.

Strengthening intellectual property law, and making it easy to copyright works, benefits American artists and American businesses. Without the ability to protect my work and my ideas, I lose what makes my business unique and my ability to earn a living doing it. The unauthorized copying, sale, and distribution of artists' intellectual property directly impact the ability of artists and creators to control the use of their own creativity, not to mention their ability to receive income they have earned from their labor. This impacts U.S. employment and the economy, and our ability to globally compete.

Please do not weaken our ability to protect the rights of creative Americans.
Thank you for your time.
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