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To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
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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 professional photographer for the last 24 years intellectual property ownership has always been a difficult issue to define. Ideas and creations many times lack a tangible, tactile, I can see it and hold it in my hands reality. This is even more true in the digital age of photography or any another medium that uses computers to create and store those ideas and creations. Because of these reasons, it is truly important for an artist/creator to define and protect what came from their mind or vision.

The bottom line of defining ownership of intellectual property is a way of guarding ones income. I have seen the ups and downs of the photo business. Many creatives are self employed don't receive a regular paycheck, so during the down times, when things are very tight and you may not know when you will see your next job, the money generated by someone using your property is especially important. Guarding the rights to your intellectual property is always important. Many people who make their living through creative channels work by themselves or with very little support staff don't always have the time or financial resources to diligently monitor the protect their intellectual property. As a result, there are times when use of these properties goes without proper payment or permission.

Laws that allow artists and creators to control their own creativity with stringent, very unappealing consequences for those who make use of intellectual property without permission need to be enforced.

Photographer
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