

[REDACTED]

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**To:** FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty  
**Cc:** info@copyrightalliance.org  
**Subject:** The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Ms. Espinel, President Obama,

I've been making my living as a professional photographer, photographic artist, and photo-educator for more than 25 years. I have had museum exhibitions, photographed for corporate annual reports and for magazines, and my work has been published in print literally thousands of times. I am an enthusiastic participant in and proponent of the digital revolution.

Copyright enables me to make a living, and is the key to my retirement. The work I've created over the years has continuing and lasting value – both artistically and monetarily. I am writing to ask you to please help me retain ownership of the work that supports my family – and that I have worked hard to create. Demands for “all rights” by magazines and corporate clients and casual internet piracy are certainly serious threats to my copyright of my work. What concerns me most, however (in spite of my enthusiasm for the internet, and for digital imaging in general), are concerted efforts by major corporations such as Google, Time-Warner Cable, Comcast, Corbis, Getty, etc. to lobby for changes in the law (Orphan Works legislation, for example) that would allow them to systematically harvest existing photography (and other copyrighted materials) in order to use and sell it for corporate gain -- with absolutely no consideration for the intentions which gave rise to copyright law in the first place.

Ironically, these are the very corporations that decry international piracy of the major properties for which they hold the copyright (movies, tv shows, music, etc.) Also ironically, some of these companies are jockeying to “own” or, at least, control access to the internet. Copyright and net-neutrality are interrelated issues, and I urge you to support and enforce both.

Please! Individuals and small businesses like mine deserve the same kind of protection as mega-corporations. Copyright law was created as an acknowledgement that creators of artworks own those difficult-to-protect-the-rights-to works. Creators deserve to continue to control how their works are sold or licensed, and earn whatever revenue those works generate. Help me and my family continue to earn a living and income for retirement, by protecting my work from misappropriation, theft, and piracy. Strong copyright laws that protect everyone, not just huge corporations, are integral to supporting a society that generates creative work!

I voted for President Obama anticipating his administration would govern in a fair, reasoned, and well-considered way – around these, and all kinds of, issues. Fulfill that promise, and make us all proud.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Jean (Gene) Miele  
Brooklyn, NY



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