

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Copyright- My thoughts on my rights as a creator
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:43:06 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and Team

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

My name is Leasha Overturf, and I live and work in Chicago, IL. as well I travel the country to produce my work. My work can be viewed at www.leasha.com and I am also a producer for Paul Elledge Photography, Inc. in Chicago, IL. I am writing to you about how important "copyright" is to my business.

As a producer I help to create images used in advertisements, magazines, TV, and many other places that businesses use original content to promote themselves. I work with advertising agencies, design firms and directly with Corporations to fulfill stratgic business plans with my visuals. In addition, my personal work is displayed in many galleries and museums as well as commissioned by others to fulfill visual needs.

The revenue that keeps my business going, as well as pays the wages of my employees is the fact that I receive comepensation for the licensed use of my images. The use of my work creates a revenue stream that pays my wages, overhead, insurance and the like. When people steal my work, I cannot afford to pay my staff or business costs. Copyright is my defense in protecting my rights in my work.

When the work is used without payment or permission, whether on the internet, printed form, or in other media, it devalues my work, as well makes it extremely hard to stay in business. It is important to maintain a tight hold on my rights to my images, and police the illegal use of them. The copyright law is KEY to keeping my business alive and well, not only for myself but for all visual artists. Using our work without permission is stealing, even if the user does not know I exist. It is my intellectual content, and my business must receive compensation. The "Orphan Works" bill proposed by big businesses like Google really concerns me. It creates a practice that promotes unauthorized use of my work. The copyright laws must remain in tact, it must remain strict, and we need education as to what that means to the general public, and to businesses that think they can "steal" imagery.

One important thing to note, is photographic and motion production add to the economic well being of local communities, and it's citizens. We pay good wages, buy food, use hotels, we use airplanes, autos, and the pay local government fees for our production to take place. The lack of respect of people to steal our work not only effects my small business, it has greater effect on the community at large.

I'm asking you and President Obama to please not allow Orphan Works to happen. Please keep copyright laws in tact!

*Sincerely,
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