

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: creative rights
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The North American Nature Photography Association has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

In 2007 I retired from a life of farming to finally pursue my dream of being a nature photographer. In the late 70's I had the opportunity to study with a number of really fine photographers, but with the responsibilities of a growing family looming, I began a career in farming in order to support my family.

Today I have exhibits in several gallery locations, have won numerous awards, including being a finalist in the 2010 Nature Conservancy photography contest as well as The Wilderness Society. With the growth of the Internet and its use as a marketing tool, piracy and infringement of my creative rights has become a large issue in my day to day communications and marketing programs. With complete confidence I believe that I can state that most professional photographers, while very accomplished at the use of digital tools to produce their fine art, are not equipped to go up against those individuals that would do harm to our personal business economy through their high tech skills.

It is necessary that the laws of our land be reviewed and upgraded to protect all artists and their creations from being stolen, abused, or reproduced without consent, since much of creativity starts as an idea and blossoms into a piece of fine art. The learning, searching and developmental processes that go into a piece of fine art are a personal and logistical journey that should not be allowed to be stolen due to the lack of a protection process for artists.

The passing of fine artwork to customers or to online locations for marketing efforts will always be in danger of capture by those people with greater knowledge of corrupt uses of the Internet. Please honor our work, creativity and artistry by developing laws that will protect our work without stealing time from our endeavors as artists.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak out in favor of creative protections.

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