

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Copyright Thoughts
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 3:30:35 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel –

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. As a professional photographer my livelihood and my career depend on unique images and intellectual property. My ability to receive income and control the use of my images has a direct impact on the success or failure of my business. I cannot succeed as a photographer if my images and other creative products (videos, multimedia slide shows) are copied, distributed or sold without my permission or knowledge.

We need to strengthen copyright protections for visual artists and maintain or even increase penalties for unauthorized use. It's a dangerous line we are walking and the boundaries must be clearly defined so that artists and content producers are capable of artistic integrity and financial survival. **The unauthorized copying, sale, and distribution of my intellectual property directly impacts my ability to control the use of my own creativity, not to mention my ability to receive income that I have earned from my labor. This is true for all artists and therefore impacts U.S. employment and the economy, and our nation's ability to compete globally.** If copyrights are not protected, I fear the state of the Arts in general in the U.S. will greatly decline as photos, music, and other expressions continue to be used without permission, not allowing those professions to make their income.

Thanks for your consideration,

~Lindsey Tropf
Wedding Photographer
Gainesville, FL

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