

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement and Copyright Law
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 11:23:18 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

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 small business owner and single parent of three children, I depend upon the rights conveyed by U.S. copyright law to protect the value of my creative efforts and allow me to earn a living as an architectural and commercial photographer. Because of the ease of creating digital duplicates, the risk of theft of intellectual property for photographers is a growing problem which is most effectively limited through legislation that incorporates severe financial penalties for those that use copyrighted material without proper licensing. The photography industry will be decimated if the business model which utilizes licensing to fairly compensate artists falls victim to the same lawless attitude of piracy that affects the music industry. Individual artists do not have the same resources that large corporations have to file suit against infringers. Thankfully, we have organizations like ASMP and the Copyright Alliance to help educate artists and legislators on the importance of protecting the right of authorship, copyright registration and improving legal protections to address changes in the digital age. Without fair compensation, artists will no longer be able to create their artwork as a full time vocation. Innovation and intellectual creativity will suffer and the USA will lose it's status as a leader in arts and entertainment. In addition, American participation in global commerce will suffer if commercial images are used without compensation for the creator.

Thank you for considering the rights of the individual artist and for enacting legislation to further protect those rights.

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