

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Intellectual Property Rights Are Important
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6:14:58 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

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 professional photographer strong copyright protection is vital for my existence. As a fashion photographer my photo shoots can require thousands of dollars of expenses, weeks of work, years of training and experience, and a one-of-a-kind creative mind and vision. There is absolutely no reason for me to buy equipment, hire models and staff, travel, or rent locations if my investment is not protected.

There is no reason for me to be a small business owner, contribute to the economy and be a creative innovator in our society if my work can be stolen by anyone that wants it.

I truly shake my head in disbelief at the argument that copyrights should be weakened or eliminated. In my mind it is analogous to saying that we should be able to walk into any retail store and just take merchandise off the shelf without any obligation to pay for them. Our society would not last long under those rules. Creative individuals produce a product needed by our society and strong intellectual property rights ensure that high quality creative works will be produced. Those rights need to be defended and strengthened.

Changes in technology have made theft of all forms of electronic media (e.g. music, text, illustrations, photography, etc.) a simple, anonymous act with seemingly little risk and even acceptance as a commonplace activity in our society. It is governments role to protect its citizens from such theft.

I ask that you be a defender of those rights and make recommendations to President Obama that will strengthen our laws for protecting intellectual property rights.

Best Regards,
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