

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:16 PM
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: PRO-IP Act of 2008 - Joint Strategic Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Ms. Espinel:

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.

As you know, the unauthorized copying, sale, and distribution of artists' intellectual property directly impacts the ability of artists and creators to control the use of their own creativity, not to mention their ability to receive income they have earned from their labor. This in turn impacts U.S. employment and the economy, and our ability to globally compete.

I am a freelance photographer whose livelihood depends on my ability to distribute the work I create. My intellectual property is a tangible asset and I welcome the government's acknowledgement of this. I use every available method of protecting my copyrights (watermarks, imbedding metadata in images, and copyright notices), however infringements still occur. Unfortunately, there is often a sense in today's society that everything on the Internet is free for the taking. I feel that education is the best approach to this problem and that a presence at the federal level will certainly help to inform both creators and the public alike.

Sincerely,
Russ Bishop
Ventura, CA