

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Creative copyright and intellectual property
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 10:50:02 AM

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.

My name is Nick Burchell, I live in Sidell in Illinois and am a professional advertising and editorial photographer.

My business is based around licensing photographs I create for my clients. Being the copyright holder of the images I create allows me to run a profitable business by licensing their use to my clients and also protects my clients from unauthorized use of the images they use to promote and market their businesses and products. It is vitally important to my clients that the work I create for their business is not used by other companies or even worse, by competitors. The only way for this to happen is to have strong, enforceable copyright laws that make it difficult for infringers to steal my images (say by downloading my images from the web), to remove identifying data embedded in the images (metadata) and if such infringements are found, to effectively prosecute said infringers. This is another reason why I am strongly opposed to any Orphan Works Legislation that does not protect the image maker and copyright holder.

Intellectual Property and Copyright law is a fundamental engine of business and financial growth. Without this as a foundation upon which to base my creative business, my business would be hamstrung in it's ability to grow and become a meaningful part of the financial growth of this country through taxes, employment and innovation.

I urge you to strengthen this governments commitment to Copyright and Intellectual Property rights and to urge legislators to reconsider their position on Orphan Works legislation which would do untold harm to the creative business in this country.

Yours Faithfully

Nick Burchell