

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: intellectual property infringement
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Ms. Espinel, U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (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. My story is that of an everyday Joe working to make a modest living. I am a photographer and a graphic designer by trade. The photographs and designs that I create are my only income. The ability to license my images is crucial to my livelihood. Without the protection of intellectual property law I would not have any incentive to create work that may not sell immediately or possibly even for years. As a small businessman I do not have the benefit of retirement packages that a corporation could offer. My work, through continued licensing, is my only source of income when the day comes that I can no longer work. Protection of my copyright is my only legal course of protection from infringement. Innovations like the Internet and its derivatives (Google, Facebook, etc.) have opened new worlds to us all, but they also offer challenges to a creative artist. I walk that fine line everyday between using the Internet as a business tool, allowing limited unauthorized use of my images and tracking down blatant piracy by businesses that should know better. Certainly, it is in my best interest to demand payment for any use of my hard work, but I also have to be careful of losing control of my work by continued unauthorized use leaving my images open for Orphan Work and public domain designation. Without a strong focus and enforcement policy from the government I risk losses that may seem trivial to the government, but are the life blood of me and my business. I find it heartening that the Obama administration has taken an interest in this issue and has created a post and coordinator on this very important issue.

Thank you for your efforts,

Hal Gage
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