

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property Rights  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:04:46 PM

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Dear Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on my behalf.

I have been an illustrator and fine artist, capable of supporting myself and my family in this small business for the last 40 years. My illustrations and paintings are commissioned to be used in children's books and educational materials, advertising, marketing and product design.

Intellectual property rights are critical to my business. My work is not always signed or given a credit line, or this identification is removed. In today's digital environments all work is very vulnerable to infringement of unauthorized copying, but especially so without identification. My work needs the protection of copyright law, in order to maintain my control of it, as the creator.

Piracy and infringements cause a loss to me and the US economy. There are secondary and derivative markets in which my artwork can be developed and licensed. This market is invaluable for my income. However, if an offender has seized my images for their own use, my position in these markets is diluted or gone. If my images are used without permission and in a distasteful way, this would be devastating to my work, especially since many of my illustrations are for the children's market. The expense of any litigation, if affordable to a small business, would be useless without the protection of copyright law.

How can the US government help? By securing that intellectual rights be protected and educating the public to this effect. Our creative works need to be recognized as a value to the rightful owner and that any violation of intellectual property is stealing and will be penalized with tough penalties.

The protection of copyright law is needed more than ever.

Thank you sincerely,

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Illustrator of and for children

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