

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Comments on Intellectual Property Rights
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:46:40 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.

First, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the issue of intellectual property rights with you and the President.

I'm a photographer. The urge for me to make pictures has become a part of who I am and I have plans (some might say dreams) of someday having my work as a photographer, an artist, a creative professional be my full-time vocation.

There a myriad of challenges facing someone like me, someone trying to answer the calling to make a living by exercising my creativity and through my own unique creation of photographs. Admittedly, addressing many of those challenges is squarely the responsibility of the various industries and groups that I am a part of and I'm definitely not expecting my government to provide the "fix" to those types of issues.

However, at the very least, I am hopeful that my government will maintain the existing copyright laws so that I will continue to have control over how the images that I make get used in the marketplace. Further, I am hopeful that my government will avoid the pressure to downgrade and erode the laws that protect me and my work by saying no to Orphan Works and similar legislation.

Without the protections of our intellectual property rights laws, my plans and dreams of making a living from my creativity will be impossible. But worse than that - the poor, sad story of a guy who missed out on his dreams - I am afraid of the negative effect that any weakening of intellectual property laws would have on the ability of the general public to experience the creative product of millions of creative Americans. As a creative person in this electronic age I am constantly concerned with my work being copied, stolen, and used without my permission even with the existing laws prohibiting such activity still in place. I can imagine that I, and millions of others like me, would stop sharing work in certain venues completely if the existing laws are not strengthened or at least maintained.

Thanks again for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you on this extremely important subject and I wish you continued good luck in the work that you're doing on my behalf as a creative American.

Sincerely,

Andy Herbick
Photographer
Baltimore, MD