

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: STOP THE ORPHAN WORKS BILL
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 8:24:47 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.

For 30 years I've worked as a freelance photographer for newspapers, magazines and advertising clients. The work has allowed me to start and build several businesses, buy a home and send my kid to college. I've employed at various times up to 15 people, currently I have 6 full time staff. I have produced several books, one of which raised over \$500,000 for earthquake victims, and my current book has raised over \$100,000 for AIDS orphans in Uganda.

All of this was possible because of our current US Copyright laws.

Part of my now 1 million image archive is rare coverage of the technology pioneers like Steve Jobs in Silicon Valley building the technology that changed the world. Stanford University Library believes this material is historically valuable so I have donated that work to Stanford for scholars and historians. I can do that because I was able to make a living from my copyrights.

Copyright laws have worked very well since the founding fathers included protections for authors in the US Constitution. With the advent of digital technology the demand for all types of content-- text, music, photography-- has grown exponentially. At the same time, it has become easy to steal artist's works which has led to a break down in our culture. People have gotten used to grabbing whatever content they want whenever they want off the internet. This has led to a sense of entitlement and mistaken mass belief that content should be free.

I have no problem with schools, students, librarians, researchers and legitimate non-profits using my work for free for educational and fundraising purposes. I have contributed hundreds if not thousands of pictures for educational in the past and will continue to do so.

But I have a widely published body of work that is circulating worldwide. if I can't control and license the work I create to advertisers or editorial content providers I won't be able to make a living. Artists and creators need to feed their families like any other workers. The Orphan Works bill takes us down a slippery slope toward complete anarchy. There is absolutely zero need for the bill and it only makes it easier for unethical users to steal my hard work.

I implore you to look into this matter further and see for yourself the great good our copyright laws have done for our culture. If this law passes, it's another step toward a much deeper impoverishment of our culture as more and more artists, already living on the margins, will be forced to stop creating. This is a shame and a loss for America and the world.

Please do the right thing and kill the Orphan Works bill.

Sincerely,

Doug Menuez

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