

From:

Subject:

Copyright protection is crucial for independent journalists!

Date:

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The extension and support of copyright protection is crucial to independent journalists - those of us working outside the corporate framework who take the time to produce stories and images which inform the public and provide historical data essential to understanding and improving our society. The photos I made of President Obama during his first run for elected office, for IL State Senate in 1995, are prime examples. It worries me that photo & video instructors, who often have limited experience in the "real world" of making a living from their work, don't cover the realities of today's market. I've always been an independent photographer - no salary, no job- provided healthcare, no pension. I am extremely lucky during this digital revolution and economic downturn, that I carefully retained copyright to all my work for magazines big and small. I've been literally living on the proceeds from my Obama pictures for the past several years, and those pictures have proven valuable in forming the opinions of viewers all over the world about the rise of this dedicated man. Thanks!



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