

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty; info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Importance of Intellectual Property Rights
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:45:10 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.

I am a freelance photographer who makes his living from the creation and licensing of intellectual property. One of the reasons that I can run my small business, pay taxes and employ people, is that I control the rights to the images that I create. It is crucial that I continue to be free to license my imagery to clients who appreciate my creative craft and vision. It is also good for them to control these images through their licensing agreements with ME.

I am a firm believer in Fair Use rights, and do not wish to bottle up intellectual property just for the sake of control. But we are witnessing a serious assault on intellectual property rights that will discourage creators in drastic and unforeseen ways.

Too many of the thieves of intellectual property give no thought to the common good of a society. They are only interested in their small short term gain, whether through free music or software or photography. They just don't care how their thievery affects the livelihoods of the creators of these products. They fail to see the connection between this property and my rent, my health insurance, the food on my table, or anything else that my creations finance directly.

The thieves seem to think that intellectual property genies created these products magically and with no toil or expense. If someone suggested to them that they work for nothing by allowing others to steal the fruits of their labors, they would immediately become outraged. I find it ironic that some of the most vocal members of the "CopyLeft," are tenured professors with good health insurance and nice pension plans.

I PAY for music for my listening pleasure. I LICENSE software for my business' use. I believe that this is good for our economy, encourages creativity and development, and is only fair.

I urge you to do what you can to protect our control of intellectual property rights in a climate of incessant assault. Please do your best to explain to people that stealing is stealing, and it actually has consequences for real people.

Sincerely,

Richard Morgenstein
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