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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:31 PM  
**To:** FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty  
**Cc:** info@copyrightalliance.org  
**Subject:** ASMP Photographer's Rights

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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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 have been a working professional photographer and a fine arts photographer for the past 25 years. The body of work that I have created over the past 25 years is extensive and represents work I have done for both professional and personal projects. As the creator of this body of work, it is very important to me to have ownership of my work. The ownership of my work as creator entitles me to the copyright and licensing of everything I create. This is very important to me both as a professional and as an artist. I only want my work to be published by people that have my permission for use. It would be completely unfair for other businesses and individuals to have free use of my work. The work that I have spent my time, money and resources in creating. Others should not have any gain from my work, unless we negotiate a license and a use agreement.

To illustrate this I would use the analogy of a home builder. The home builder buys all their tools and equipment. Takes the time to get permits, blueprints and materials to build their home. When they finish their home they can live in it and enjoy their work or they can sell it or lease it to others. The real estate property that they created is theirs to own, sell or lease. Creating a photograph is similar in that a piece of property is created. That property is the sole property of it's creator, the photographer. The photograph can be held by the photographer, sold or leased to others (the selling of rights and licensing of images for specific use). This might not be the best analogy, but please remember...I'm a photographer...not a writer!

Intellectual property rights are very important to me as a photographer. They protect my good work and create a sound business environment.

Digital photography in this age of the Internet and social media platforms has been compromised by the ease in which one can acquire photos, videos, music and art. Many people and businesses are not respecting the intellectual property rights of artists and photographers. It is so important that the good work of you, the first U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, the Copyright Office and the Copyright Alliance continue to work on behalf of all creators.

Thank you for your time and considerations,

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