


**From:**   
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property Rights & Copyright  
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Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

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 Commercial Photographer in Denver, CO making a living licensing images to corporate America. My images are registered with the Copyright office on a regular schedule to provide the maximum protection Copyright law allows. Over the 18 years that I have been in business, the key component to my success is the exclusive ability to control the images I create, thanks to US Copyright laws.

Intellectual property rights are important to me because as the creator of a image, I am liable for how and where an image may be used. For example should an image of a US Military locations or a bio-containment lab be infringed upon I need the right to stop and protect the images from further unauthorized use. This same protection also allows me to make a living by exclusively controlling those rights and being compensated fairly by those who wish to license my work.

Piracy and infringement affect me directly in the same two ways as noted above. One, I am liable for how an image gets used and could be sued by a person in my photograph for an unauthorized use of their likeness and therefore need the ability to stop any and all infringements. Two, Infringements equal lost income to my business and lost tax revenue.

The U.S. government can better protect the rights of creative Americans by increasing the penalties for infringements in an effort to deter them. Corporate infringers do so because they know the risk far out way the cost of being caught. Current law only protects images that are registered before an infringement occurs and then limits the penalty if an infringement occurs before registration. Increasing the penalties for infringements of both registered and non registered works would increase proper licenses revenue and indirectly increase the tax base of creative professionals.

Jackie Shumaker  
Commercial Photographer  
[www.jackieshumaker.com](http://www.jackieshumaker.com)  
Denver, CO