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**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Copyright Erosion  
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Dear Ms. Espinel:

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I have been in business as a full time photographer since 1992 and supplying images to stock photo libraries and working as a freelance photographer since 1984. The internet has been an amazing thing for many businesses but it has been a disaster for photographers trying to keep their images from being infringed on every level imaginable!!!! Just a few years ago my photo business was grossing well over 400K a year and had climbed continually up until 2007. In spite of working twice as hard and placing more images with more clients my income has declined considerably and in 2009 my gross was only 109K. This drop in income is directly related to the attitude and lack of integrity with both clients and people trolling the internet with no sense of intellectual property rights whatsoever. This younger generation that has grown up downloading everything for free including music, software, and most certainly photos will only make a bad problem worse especially now that this younger generation are moving into positions as photo buyers for various companies, web developers, and design firms. It is vital that photographers and stock photo agencies take seriously the intellectual property rights and do everything in their power to police them and go after blatant infringements. One study by Pic Scout an embedding service for helping find and track digital image uses estimated that 80 percent of today's photo uses are illegal, unpaid, and without attention to the rightful copyright and payment terms!!!!!!

I am worried about certain legislation sponsored by companies such as Google and Microsoft called Orphan Works Act that will be a bad situation even worse for those of us struggling in a business that is already becoming such a challenge to get paid properly for our images that have been collected with blood, sweat, and tears!!!

Thank you for asking for my opinion, it gives me great hope that finally we have a president that cares for more than special interest groups!!!

Warm regards,

Stuart

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