

**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property is critical  
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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.

Intellectual Property is steadily being devalued, and the rights of creators are eroding. As a photographer, the images that I create (and which I depend upon for my livelihood) are not only a matter of my personal expression but also the creation of a historical record, a commercial product, and/or a very valuable piece of documentation. It is frustrating to no end to see that the Internet gives many the false perception that IP is free, but assaults such as Orphan Works threatens to deprive us of the very means to license the use of our creations. Just as your Microsoft Office software comes with a license for use, so does my photography. Yet every day we fight a growing battle against those who think that digital images don't cost anything (when online or not printed), therefore they shouldn't have to pay anything for the use of such creations. How can we earn a living when the rights of IP creators are diluted? How can the U.S. continue to grow and create advancements in technology, medicine, and the like if the creations aren't firmly protected? This is not just the arts, which in my opinion are an important part of our culture and identity, but of our national product. We cannot grow and evolve without protecting the expression of our ideas.

Regards,  
Wm

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