

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property is Important for Artists  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:13:45 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

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

As a writer/photographer/musician, I am obviously very concerned about my rights as a creator. Copyright infringement, whether it be questionable practices like file sharing or outright theft and plagiarism, is a serious threat to my livelihood and continued ability to practice my arts.

I would, however, like to address an issue which I feel is a larger one for independent creators: rights grabs. These typically occur in the form of publishers demanding all rights to a created work of art. The most egregious example, of course, is the music industry, where very few artists have the ability to control the rights to their works. The same is happening in photography with several of the larger stock photography companies looking to gain more control over the rights of the photographs they publish and sell on behalf of photographers. And work for hire practices in the publishing industry are still all too common.

There are dozens of laws on the books to protect artists from copyright infringement and theft. There is precious little recourse, however, for artists in dealing with laws that favor publishers over creators.

I would like to see more done to even the playing field for creators as we deal with multi-billion dollar international media conglomerates who have literally written copyright law in this country for the last 50+ years - all of which is, of course, skewed in favor of publishers over creators. What we need are consumer protection-like laws established for creators who do not have the ability to affect policy with our lawyers and campaign contributions.

What good will come to the publishers if their practice of rights grabs continue? When creators are pushed out of the equation by heavy-handed publishers what will be left for them to publish?

Sincerely,

Teddy Carroll  
Writer/Photographer/Musician  
Superior, CO