

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
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The North American Nature Photography Association has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. I am a conservation photographer and electronic media creator, creating photographic and video content for conservation stories and other projects.

The current electronic media age has brought many fantastic things, especially exciting is the democratization of bringing content to the public. The internet in general as well as FaceBook, Twitter, etc., have brought the ability to tell stories to a much broader base. I applaud this trend for giving more people a voice. Unfortunately, in the current intellectual property environment, it has also brought with it a great deal of infringements upon intellectual property. This trend has reached the magnitude that a large portion of the public expects that they should be able to use content at no expense. This is very disrespectful to content creators as well as challenging their ability to make the content. I fear that in the very near future that all content that requires a commitment of large amounts of time and resources will cease to exist. This worries me not only in regards to the continued viability of my chosen field, but also for the state of our democracy; would the full scope of the "Watergate" situation have ever been revealed if there weren't truly professional journalists able to devote a great deal of time to investigating the situation.

On the more immediately personally relevant side, I have noticed that the current climate has most of the sort of clients that beginning content creators would work with convinced that they can get their content free. This is making it much more difficult than before for folks such as myself to get going, as we are forced to pursue higher end clients from the beginning as they are the only ones willing to pay. With no name recognition, that is a challenging prospect indeed.

I hope that the intellectual property realm can find a new ground that promotes the democratization of content creation while still protecting the ability to make a living for the creators. Hopefully, the public will see that long-term this free for all is not good for free speech as the "speakers" will see their work stolen, used inappropriately, and the artist can't make a living; in such a world, most won't be able to continue their commitment to the art.

Moose's Photos

Rick A. Brown
4075 Aerial Way, 170
Eugene, OR 97402
541-461-2973

Courier
672 Merlot Ave
Keizer, OR 97303