

From:

Subject:

Date:

Intellectual Property Enforcement
Friday, March 19, 2010 2:40:48 PM

March 19, 2009

Dear Ms. Espinel,

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 professional outdoor photographer whose revenues have declined the past two years for three reasons. I am being impacted by 1) the competitive pressures on the print media to keep costs down 2) the amateur photographers who are willing to let their images be used for little or no compensation and 3) the general impression that images are free and in the public domain, feeding off the pirated downloading of music. This impression is especially true regarding the use of images on websites. There is an actual movement referred to as the copyleft movement that is pushing for the ability to infringe on copyrights without consequences.

I can handle the competitive pressures, but it is important to me that you do not weaken the existing copyright protections for photographers, musicians and artists, and in fact it would be helpful if you could reinforce them, especially in the internet arena and international marketplace.

Sincerely,

Gerald D. Tang
West Dundee, Illinois