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Deborah A. Diroll

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To whom it may concern:

I am not currently receiving payment for my art and photography.

I have worked on my evenings and weekends over a period of 30 years to create a library of over 500,000 images to produce income for my retirement. This has cost me almost all my free time and approximately $50,000 for slides, processing, camera equipment, books, computers, software, digital upgrades in equipment, etc.

I am very concerned that any thief under cover of legal loopholes will effectively steal the income that I need and have worked so hard to provide for myself. We know that some individuals routinely steal the art of others claiming “fair use” or “fine art.”

Why would anyone work when they can legally steal the work of others - and those who work are the prey of those with sufficient resources to fight and win all legal battles? We are penalizing those who produce artistic works with insurmountable paperwork, excessive time and financial costs for registering large amounts of work products.

Artistic work needs to be valued and protected as any other work product which belongs to the creator until it is paid for by contract or by salary. No person can walk into your bank or house and legally clean out your assets - but artistic work has very little protection because of high court costs and the inconsistent rulings of judges.

Copyright law is currently giving away our work to anyone with a lack of conscience and rewards them financially for doing it.

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