Outdoor Japan Media

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July 23, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Subject: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

I am an American and the founder of a media company and hire many photographers, illustrators and artists for our publications. I am also a photographer and editor-in-chief so I can see things from both sides of this issue. I have worked in the industry before the digital age and now in it and I strongly believe it is more important than ever to have stronger copyright laws for artists, photographers and creative not weaker. If we do not we will essentially be taking away the livelihood of many extremely talented individuals while significantly weakening the quality of media for consumers and the creative work for companies.

We live in a “copy and paste” digital world now and we already see the deterioration of work by lazy editors and flat out forgery of others without ethics. We cannot legislate making it even easier and more widespread. I am appalled that the UK would enact laws to facilitate this and I very much hope that my country will lead the way by protecting individuals rights, quality work by talented artists and ensure that consumers are not inundated by “stolen or knowingly borrowed” work that is not their own. Please do the right thing and stop this legislation.

As an editor and publisher it is my duty to protect the rights of the photographers and artists I work with so that they trust the publications and media companies they work with. As a photographer and writer, I want to know the law protects my work.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this thoughtfully and I hope justice will be served for the greater good of everyone involved in this issue. Your Kind attention to the above matter is much appreciated.

Yours truly,

Gardner Robinson

Director, Outdoor Japan Media
Editor-in-Chief, Outdoor Japan Traveler magazine
Publisher, The Surfers Journal Japan Edition