To those with the responsibility of protecting the principle of private property:

I have worked as a commercial photographer for 20 years. I have made my living and supported my family solely by licensing to others the rights to use my photographs in particular ways. These photographs are my products. They are my assets and my property. Prior to the digital age these products were unique physical pieces of film or prints. Since 2002 all my products have been created and distributed digitally. When they are used without my permission or license it is commonly called 'unauthorized use'. In reality it is theft. It is stealing. It is taking away from me and my heirs what is rightfully and lawfully ours.

I am concerned that those in power will weaken the already poor protections against this kind of theft.

Please protect my private property ownership rights, and my family's living, by achieving the following goals in any changes you make to copyright law: make copyright registration simpler by allowing an unlimited number of published and unpublished images created in a given year to be registered on a single form with a single agency; require entities that reproduce images to have a valid license to do so; and, do not allow so called 'Orphan Works' rules to strip creators' property rights.

It's hard enough to make a living in the creative arts. Please don't make it easier for others to steal my property. And please do make it easier for me to get compensation from those who have stolen my property for their own use.

Sincerely,
David Hills
David Hills Photography
Silver Spring, MD