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As a practicing artist and photographer, I am writing to explain how the current situation with Internet use of my work makes it impossible for me to enforce my rights to my imagery, and how this negatively impacts my ability to continue as an artist, and likely will make it harder for future visual creators.

You can learn more about me and my work on my website, www.digitalfieldguide.com.

As a particular case in point, I would like to point to the way my work is used on Pinterest. Pinterest has a current private market value of about $10 Billion. At least thirty of my images have been used on Pinterest without my permission or any compensation to me.

The business model at Pinterest is for Pinterest users to create virtual "boards" to which they "pin" items of interest---such as my images, which are actually "scraped" from other sources, such as my blog. I am not out to halt this usage, but I do feel it is fair that I receive some compensation for this un-permissioned use of my copyrighted work that benefits a for-profit corporation. You can read more about the details of the Pinterst use of my imagery on my blog, with links to some of the usage of my work on Pinterest, at www.digitalfieldguide.com/blog/12572.

Some kind of compulsory licensing pool is the best arrangement to cover situations like Pinterest on the internet, where essentially this is a low-cost but real usage if licensed. By comparison, how much would the end user pay for a physical postcard to be tacked to a bulletin board? Perhaps a dollar or two. But of course with the physical card the image would be initially licensed by the publisher, and I would receive a fee for that.

I do feel that it is important that visual creators in my situation receive compensation for usages on the Internet such as those made by Pinterest users. A compulsory licensing pool seems like the best mechanism for supporting this important goal of rewarding creators, encouraging them to keep making original visual art and also allowing the public to make use of assets on the internet they are interested in and encouraging free expression.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.