

The photographic community has been under a lot of pressure over the past 10 years, what with the recession and the development of digital photography. Many of us have given up our studios and staff and now work for much less than we had ever imagined. We are all striving to make a decent living under these circumstances, which we find to be unique to our industry, and yet we're constantly being faced with additional expenses and rising costs. Personally, I've been working more hours than ever before, and my income is roughly half of what it was in 2006.

I urge you to reconsider the fee increase for registration of copyrights. Our photographs are being "stolen" at an alarming rate due to the ease of copying from the internet, so we need to register our copyrights as often as possible. Any increase in registration fees would have a definite negative impact - a serious negative impact - on our livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration.

-John Manno