



Brandon Cole *marine photography*

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RE: Orphan Works Legislation

To Whom It May Concern at the US Copyright Office:

Greetings from Spokane, WA.

My concern over the Orphan Works Act just won't go away. I have written to lawmakers, and the President. And I must also let you know how important this matter is to me and my family.

I believe the Senate version of the bill, as written, represents the greatest threat to my livelihood that I have faced in 20 years of business. It is so unfair, so misguided, so hard for me to believe that I have trouble articulating my thoughts, bringing my words to bear.

I created my photographs. They represent my creativity. I paid for the equipment used to create them. I paid to travel around the world in order to create these images. I risk my life to make these photographs. (I am a full-time professional underwater photographer, and most of my work deals with sharks, whales, dolphins, etc.) They are my family's source of income. Why should anyone else-- a book publisher, or a Fortune 500 company, or the business across town, or my neighbor-- have a preferential right to profit from my work without my permission? All of the rhetoric and clever words and spin I hear from those supporting this legislation fail to answer this. How is the bill good for me and photographers like me? How does it look out for our best interests? I am ashamed to think that my tax dollars have been used to bring this bill to the floor.

I do not have the time, nor money, to spend the rest of my life in court suing those who will be given permission to steal my photographs if the House passes this bill.

I regularly register the copyright in my photographs with your Office. Doing so represents a considerable investment in time and money over the years.

Please stand up for the best interests of professional photographers like me. I sincerely hope you remember how devastating this bill as written would be to me and my family and my colleagues, and that you note my strong opposition to the Orphan Works Act.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Brandon Cole