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Recipient of the National Outdoor Book Award for Penguin Planet

Recipient of the Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Species Photography

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RE: Comments regarding Notice of Inquiry on
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works.

I have been a full-time wildlife and nature photographer for more than 20 years, deriving my income from the licensing of my images to magazines, books and other publications and products. I have worked on assignment for National Geographic Magazine and have been published in most of the major science and nature publications around the world.

For many years, the unauthorized use of my images was a relatively small issue: it happened, but relatively rarely. Although these uses reduced my income by a modest amount, I considered that loss part of the cost of doing business.

Now, by contrast, with the ease and ubiquity of digital copying of images and often uncontrolled "sharing", my income has virtually collapsed. Professional buyers continue to license images, but many people using imagery have gotten used to getting it off the internet for free – and seem to resent the need for proper licensing and payment, or even the existence of copyright protection. As a result, there are few financial incentives for creating new creative work – a key component in the creation of copyright law.

As the Copyright Office reviews the current situation and any possible changes to copyright law, I urge them to consider the following:

- Artists and content providers deserve more protection in the current free-for-all environment, not less. The Copyright Office should commit itself to finding ways to *strengthen* copyright protection, not weaken it.
- It is impossible for small businesses like mine to shoulder the costs built in to the process of registering copyright on *every image I create.*
- A public education campaign about the value of creative works, and the limits of free or fair use.