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photography

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Dear Copyright Office,

I am responding to the Notice of Inquiry on Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works. I am a professional photographer who business rests upon my ability to control the publication and licensing of my work. I have been earning my living as a photographer for 28 years. The core of my business is licensing reproduction rights to my photographs, which appear mainly in college level education and psychology textbooks.

Controlling the publication of my work is the basis of my business. My published images are very valuable to me. Provisions of the copyright legislation now under consideration by Congress that treats published work as open to use by the public undermine my ability to control my work and earn a living. Copyright infringement is theft.

I have registered copyright to most of my work. Moving copyright registration from the serious, dedicated hands of the staff at the Library of Congress to private entities will be dereliction of governmental duty to its citizens.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Dwight