From: Mike Torrey, Photographer

Subject: Orphan Works Legislation

I have been a working photographer for 15 years (since 2000). I have had images of mine used by companies without permission or a licensing agreement and I had to collect fees for reimbursement. Without being able to threaten enforcement through our courts, I would have no recourse with the copyright infringers and would have lost thousands of dollars. Corporations see that I am just a small firm and are resistant to paying when they are caught. I'm concerned that further changes to the Copyright Act, especially Orphan Works legislation, will reduce the value of my image library that I have built over the last 15 years.

In addition, I have a coffee table photography book, "Stone Offerings, Machu Picchu's Terraces of Enlightenment", which was published independently and won the 2010 Best Arts Book from the Independent Book Publisher's Association. It has sold more 5,000 copies and I am currently printing another 3,000 copies. I rely on strong and actionable copyright laws to keep me and my work legally protected.

This is my livelihood. Please do not weaken my ability to enforce my copyright and earn a living.

Thank you,
Mike Torrey