July 21, 2015

Dear Copyright legislators,

I am producer, writer, director who makes films for a living. I am also a painter, poet, photographer and a cinematographer. I've made my living and supported my family doing these activities since I graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.A. in Communication Arts in 1975. My films have been broadcast on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, many cable channels and in many sites on the web – and have been recognized with EMMY, CINE, Aurora, Philo, TELLY and many other top film festival prizes. The income generated from my content enables me to survive and sustain my activities and provides the basis for taking care for my family and allowing me to give back to my community. My copyright ownership to the tangible imagery, hard copies and files I create is the cornerstone that protects my work, my investment and my career and my livelihood. When I create a tangible asset and retain ownership to the asset I have a "product" which I can then license to others. Taking my ownership away is taking my work away without compensating me. I believe it is my right to retain control over my works and it is my right to determine how and with whom I wish to share my works. This right of control is fundamental to my business, to me, my family and my livelihood. When I publish a work, my work often becomes even more valuable as more people become aware of the work and consider how it may benefit them. All of these works I create I care for, I keep control of, I archive and I work with the assets over time. I have over a half a million 35mm transparencies and negatives. I have more than 120 terabytes of film and video footage in my archive- thousands of hours of footage. I have dozens of paintings, sculptures, poems and prints that I've created. All of these assets are of value to me now and in the future. It is imperative to my efforts that my copyright ownership of items created by my own hand remain intact. My copyright ownership to my very large inventory of assets is fundamental to my work and my ability to make a living doing my work. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rees W. Candee
Writer, Producer, Director
Scottsdale, Arizona