Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am an amateur nature photographer, though I have had many of my donated works “purchased” to support various charitable and service organizations fundraising efforts. I have also won several photo contests and have had my work featured in calendars and newsletters, also for various charitable and service organizations.

In recent years, I have been giving serious thought to becoming at least a part-time professional photographer. For that reason, I am very concerned about proposed changes to copyright laws that would infringe on my ability to make a living from my own creations. Licensing my photos would be a vital component of my business plan, and now in this digital age, the copyright protection of my own work is more important than ever before.

Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. It’s a pillar on which my ability to conduct business rests. The idea that the law might be changed to endanger my ownership of my product is troubling, to say the least. It would be like stealing my earning ability. The idea that I would no longer be able to benefit from my own labor seems contrary to the ideas and ideals of the United States of America. The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to possibly make a living as a photographer. Even if I were to remain a hobbyist, I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. It is vital to me both personally and professionally that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my intellectual and artistic property is used. I cannot even imagine how devastating the proposed changes would be to my many friends who are well established artists, writers, and photographers.

I urge you to allow all artists to preserve their constitutional rights to control their work, past, present, and future, across all media, and protect their threatened livelihoods.

Sincerely,
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