

To:

The United States Copyright Office

From:

**Stephen H. Moore
319 Summit Forest Drive
Marietta, GA
30068**

Re: Comments responding to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge you to not increase the fees charged for copyright registration. I have been a professional photographer since 2003 and have registered several of my works. I would have registered more of them had the fees not been so expensive. Photographers, despite what non-photographers believe, are generally not highly compensated for their work. We tend to come under the category of “starving artists.” The field is highly competitive and many in the business world seem to think of photography as a “fun hobby,” instead of hard work and an incredibly expensive field in which to work. With the prevalence of digital photography, everyone with a camera thinks of themselves as a photographer and seems to think that professionals should be paid \$ 50 for their work. Copyright registration is essential for photographers, as it is one of the few manners in which we can protect ourselves from unauthorized use of our images. Some of my images have been stolen and are literally used on web sites all over the world without any compensation. The only hope we have of taking legal action against those who steal our property is to register them with the United States Copyright Office prior to their publication and, if such registration becomes increasingly more expensive, fewer of us will be able to afford this protection. Increasing the fees will not create additional revenue for the Copyright Office. Keeping the fees as they are and educating the creative community about the process will create additional revenue. Please keep the fees at their current levels.

Kind regards,

Stephen H. Moore