bar H Photography
bar H enterprises llc
21955 H Avenue
Grundy Center, IA 50638
Tel (319) 240-3520
Jennifer Horton
jennifer@barHphotography.com

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Copyright Office

I am a Certified Professional Photographer, having built a small business working in the equine industry since 1998. My husband and I depend on our small business for our living.

I am deeply concerned with the activities and discussions currently poised to affect, and severely negatively impact, the work of photographers and other artists by the proposed change to current copyright laws to create orphan works.

The digital age of photography has opened many opportunities, as well as many difficulties for photographers. Copyright infringement occurs each day, and it is the same as stealing money from my bank or items from my home. The work, labor and expense I put into to creating a photograph, whether purchased by a client for personal enjoyment or by a company for commercial use, must be protected from being stolen by any other party.

Our product, the photograph or electronic image, deserves to be protected from theft the same as a car in inventory at an automobile dealership or a guitar at a music store.

I sell images to publications for editorial use. Because that image is published in a magazine it does not lose value to me or to the client who purchases it. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Just the basic reorder of another photograph is income for me, which pays for our mortgage and groceries.

I would implore you to drop the concept of removing this protection for artists by altering the copyright laws. It would do so much financial damage to artists in so many industries.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Horton