July 14, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom it may Concern:

I've been a professional photographer for over 25 years and would like to voice my opinion against the Next Great Copyright Act.

I graduated with a BA from the University of Washington – Madison and studied full time for two years at the School of Visual Arts MFA Photography program in New York. I also have taken multiple college courses in filmmaking, desktop publishing and web design.

As a photojournalist I have worked at several large metro newspapers including the Indianapolis Star, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and the Puget Sound Business Journal. As a freelancer my work has been published around the world from foreign TV stations and news organizations to small blogs, universities, nonprofits and commercial entities. It has been honored by many national and regional news industry organizations.

For me, the copyright issue is not an abstract issue, but the basis on which my business rests. My copyright is the product I license. Infringing on my work is like stealing my money. It's important to my business that I'm able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does not lose value upon publication. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

Please leave the copyright law as is. Its strength in protecting my rights as an artist is the rock solid foundation of my business and incentive to produce new works.

Sincerely,
Karen Ducey
Seattle, WA