Will Austin Photography

July 23, 2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Will Austin, I'm a full-time photographer based in Seattle. I mostly shoot commercially - images for business marketing use, and for editorial use. My images have been published all over the world.

My business is based solely on my ability to license the usage of my images. I register all of my images with the copyright office to ensure the protections I need to license and re-license my images. Because I own the copyright to my images I am able to license them for commercial and editorial use. Taking away this right would destroy my ability to make an income from my work, period. In fact, my images become more valuable when published because I can sell them again to another party at a later time.

But, even with the current copyright law it is difficult to deal with the constant infringement and outright theft of my images. Online infringement is especially rampant, and without adding a time-consuming and expensive legal burden, I can not even start to address this problem. What other business is stolen from daily with little or no recourse? No one should be able to use my creative work without my consent.

Additionally, here are some other salient points -

- Copyright registration is a burdensome and expensive task for my small business. I believe that we should NOT be required to register our copyrighted work. Most other modern nations removed the registration requirement long ago. We should receive full legal protection from the moment of creation and the legal burden and expense should be placed on the infringer of the copyrighted work.

- The requirement to register published and unpublished images separately is difficult at best and usually impossible due to the instant nature of digital publication and social media. This requirement should be removed as it makes it impossible for me to properly register published work and puts my business at a competitive disadvantage.

- If registration is still required I would rather submit images in large batches electronically every quarter. This would be more feasible, as long as I could include published and unpublished images. But this would still be a large task, I shoot tens of thousands of images per quarter.

Thank you for reading my letter, let me know if I can be of further help.

Sincerely yours,

Will Austin

3823 136TH PL SE
Seattle, WA 98006
206-271-7406