

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a photography student that has been making the difficult transition into professional photographer. I say difficult because with the recent shifts in this medium, it has been increasingly harder to make a living as photographer. I struggle to find jobs that actually meet my financial needs, and often end up coming out of pocket and spending more for the shoot than I make. Everyone has a camera now a days and with that has come the devaluation of the art form.

The thought that copyright costs could go up is a very intimidating thought. Already having to pay to protect my own work that I spent hours of time, energy, and money producing is overwhelming; please do not make it even harder for artists.

It is easier than ever now to have your photos stolen and used without your permission, with social media and the internet all one has to do is "drag and drop" the image and its theirs. Photographers have very little opportunity to protect themselves, while still managing to promote themselves. Passing the copyright fee increase would create yet another barrier to photographers being able to hold a successful and lucrative career where their artwork is valued and protected.