



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AMERICA

June 3, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The Professional Photographers of America strongly offers our support for the CASE Act, the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019. With the implementation of this bill, a longstanding and unfortunate inequity in the current copyright system will finally be rectified.

For many of our members, the traditional process of filing a federal lawsuit to recover damages from an incidence of copyright infringement is not feasible. Professional photographers tend to be small business owners and their infringement claims are often for claims less than \$3,000. On average, the cost of a lawsuit on these kinds of issues can soar to almost \$300,000. As a result, photographers are precluded from enforcing the rights afforded to them by the Constitution.

As professional photographers, our members play a significant, yet often understated role in society. Pictures allow us to experience the world around us, capture the events impacting our culture, and preserve life's most precious moments. The CASE Act seeks to alleviate the void in the current copyright system by providing small creators with the ability to protect their work from incidences of infringement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Trust". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Trust
Chief Executive Officer