



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AMERICA

October 11, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman - House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Doug Collins, Ranking Member - House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Nadler & Ranking Member Collins,

The six women signatories on this letter comprise half of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) board of directors. Our organization represents more than 30,000 working photographers -- the smallest of small businesses, struggling every day to compete in an increasingly difficult environment. You may be interested to learn that women make up almost 60-percent of new photographers coming into the industry. As a result, it is safe to say that women are quickly becoming the largest percentage of America’s visual arts community – and that those communities make up the largest share of American creators.

As you know, PPA has advocated for a small claims process for more than a dozen years. We applaud you for your leadership and support of the CASE Act, and are excited about the progress being made. This piece of legislation is vital to the hundreds of thousands of creators who depend on copyright for their financial survival. We know you agree that America’s one-size-fits-all copyright system doesn’t work for the majority of creators it is supposed to serve. The CASE Act creates a fair, optional vehicle for creators and infringers to work out their differences. We urge you to continue to push for its immediate passage.

That being said, we would be remiss if we did not express our dismay at some of the recent opposition expressed by the American Civil Liberties Union. As women running small businesses, fighting every day for financial survival, we were stunned to see the ACLU siding against small businesses in support of the interests expressed by billion-dollar tech giants. As if the late timing of its opposition wasn’t questionable enough, the ACLU jumped into the fray by simply restating the same unfounded concerns that have been floated by suspect organizations such as Public Knowledge, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Re:create, and others. We depend on you to help Congress navigate through the opposition’s smoke screen of dishonesty. We hope that you will share this information with your fellow members of the House of Representatives.

Fair is fair. It’s time we give small creators the same rights as those enjoyed by other Americans by correcting this decades-old inequity in the system. The CASE Act will allow us to do just that.

Most sincerely,


Audrey Wancket,
President


Mary Fisk-Taylor,
Treasurer


Barbara Bovat,
Board Member


Kira Derryberry,
Board Member


Allison Watkins,
Board Member


Makayla Jade Harris,
Board Member