

2/12/18

Ms. Karyn Temple Claggett  
Acting Register of Copyrights  
Mr. Rob Kasunic  
Associate Register of Copyrights  
U.S. Copyright Office  
101 Independence Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Karen and Rob:

We are aware that that U.S. Copyright Office's Electronic Office (eCO) system will be offline for maintenance from 5 p.m. Feb. 15 through 9 p.m. Feb. 19, 2018.

As you know, our visual artists groups have all expressed strong objections to the costly and burdensome change to the regulations governing group registration of photographs going into effect on Feb. 20, 2018 per the public notice of the final rule. Upon hearing of this change, we advised our members of the change and the timing of the change, as published in the Federal Register. Our members are relying on the implementation date set forth in the Federal Register public notice in order to register their works, prior to the imposition of the new limits. A system shutdown in the week ahead of the implementation date operates as a de-facto early implementation of the rule change. While we have always attempted to work with the Office to support its goal of increasing copyright registration among visual artists, the frustration being experienced by our members after this action will only serve to decrease copyright registration. In addition, the early availability of the new group registration form appears to be causing some confusion with the potential to have a negative impact on registrations. These factors prejudice our members who are attempting to register their work prior to February 20, 2018 under existing regulations.

In light of this announced outage and its implications, we formally request that you postpone the implementation of the regulation until April 20, 2018 to give our members more time to adjust to this new costly change and to not be prejudiced by the eCO system shutdown.

Sincerely,

American Photographic Artists  
American Society of Media Photographers  
Digital Media Licensing Association  
Eugene Mopsik  
Graphic Artists Guild  
National Press Photographers Association  
North American Nature Photography Association  
Professional Photographers of America  
Shaftel & Schmelzer

