



National Press Photographers Association

120 Hooper Street • Athens, GA 30602
president@nppa.org

Via Email

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of the CASE Act

Dear Rep. Jeffries,

As the *Voice of Visual Journalists*, our members are visual journalists who provide the public with compelling images and stories that inform our democracy, the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) would like to thank you for introducing the CASE Act, and express our support for this legislation that would create a copyright small claims tribunal within the U.S. Copyright Office. Your years of dedication working with authors groups including NPPA to craft a measure that would serve the needs of individual creators is greatly appreciated.

Copyright infringement is a pernicious problem for our members. Visual journalism is incredibly valuable work that is regularly stolen and circulated on the Internet. Yet visual journalists currently face a long, expensive process to be compensated for the theft of their work. The manner in which infringement persists without a workable remedy is economically devastating for photographers, their clients and their employers. It is our hope that the balanced nature of the CASE Act provides a real solution for photographers and other authors.

NPPA members' work helps Americans — and others — better understand the world in which we live. As news organizations have trimmed staff, more and more of our members are now working as independent contractors, licensing their images and footage for editorial use. Visual journalists work on extremely tight deadlines covering events of great national and international importance, including political campaigns, wars, breaking news, sports and entertainment. Those images are widely infringed as a matter of course. Within seconds of its creation an image may be downloaded and re-posted, becoming “viral” in short order.

NPPA's attorneys, who you have worked with on this legislation, hear on a regular basis from members who are devastated by the economic loss and the additional burden of policing and fighting infringements. In many cases, these photographers are unable to bear the burden of a federal lawsuit, thus encouraging and enabling those predatory actors to continue to infringe with impunity. We hope that the CASE Act changes that equation and serves as a practical solution for the problem of policing copyright infringement.

On behalf of our members, thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael P. King

Michael P. King, President
National Press Photographers Association

cc: Zoe Oreck - Legislative Director and Counsel, zoe.oreck@mail.house.gov, Fax: (202) 225-1018