16 July 2015

Gentlemen,

I'm writing today in concern for the new copyright laws that are being debated in Washington. I am a painter and needlework designer. I have been an artist since my graduation from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1986. I am also a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society.

The new copyright laws would give anyone free use of my creations. It would be impossible register every piece of art that I make or sell. Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue but the basis on which I strive to make a living. My copyright is the product that I license. If one steals the image of an artwork and uses it for free that is stealing ones profits and livelihood. The artist should retain the right to determine how and whom is using our artwork and for how much. My artwork does not lose its value once it is published. What the artist creates should be under their control to sell, publish or lease for profit. In this digital era artists art work need to be protected more than ever so that the artist can continue to make a living from the creation of one's artwork.

Please consider artists well-being before passing laws that would not allow the artist to control his/hers own work. Independent creators need to continue making a living.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Doris Keil-Shamieh