Revision of Copyright Law:

Based upon comments attributed to some lobbyists and lawyers I submit you are being misinformed. Artwork DOES NOT lose its commercial value once it has been published. In fact the opposite effect is the norm. The published work GAINS in value.

I am a professional painter and I have been working as a professional painter since my first one man show in 1964. My work has been published in print as well as electronic media and has been distributed world wide. I am the author and contributor of at least 6 art books that deal with my special watercolor technique. Those editions were originally published by Watson-Guptill Publications (now Random House) and also distributed through other publishers in Asia and Europe. Several of the editions have been translated into foreign languages, published and distributed world wide. My work can be found in many public and private collections. In addition a number of my paintings have been reproduced as limited edition prints and some images have been licensed for various purposes. You can find my full bio via Google.

I want to make it very clear that copyright protection is essential to my personal income. It is not some abstract issue to be bandied about by politicians. Copyright gives me legal standing for the work that I license. Everything I create is a part of me and becomes a part of my inventory until it is sold.

My understanding of this current proposal is that my rights and my work can be stolen by corporate interests who are too cheap to pay a fair price. Apparently greed knows no bounds for we experience pressures from some corporate interests who wish to lower commissions and basically steal our work. I understand that this current proposal will add insult to injury by allowing others to arbitrarily copyright our work.

Please don’t allow thieves an even greater reign and liberty to steal an artist’s work. We should be allowed to continue to have the right to voluntarily determine how and by whom our work is used.

Sincerely,

Don Rankin