Diane Barton

Illustration

Design

July 22, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been a commercial illustrator and designer since the 1970's. The copyright laws have made it possible to work without the fear that my work, my ideas, indeed my livelihood could be stolen from me. At least I always knew that there would be ways to right that wrong if it happened.

The proposals by the Copyright Office now under consideration by Congress are put forth by people who think that it's acceptable to take a person's work and use it for whatever purposes they choose without permission or any financial compensation. This is wrong. I can't go into a store and just walk out with with what they produce without paying. I bet you have an expectation that you will be paid for your services. Shouldn't we all have that expectation? We deserve to own what we do and have control over how it is used. And, yes, corporations who want to digitize intellectual property might not be able to get certain permissions to do that. But, again, these things are not their property. They belong to the people who created them or who negotiated ownership through the creator, and they are the livelihood of those creators. This proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be rejected. I sincerely hope you can see the importance of this.

Thank you for your consideration.

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