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July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Registrar of Copyrights
U. S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket #2015-01)

Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office:

My name is Diane Rome Peebles and I am a Florida-based freelance scientific illustrator. My career has spanned over 30 years, and my work continues to be in high demand by both collectors and the publishing community. Over this three-decade period, I have amassed a sizable catalog of saltwater fish illustrations which I license for both educational (at no charge) and commercial purposes (for licensing fees).

The copyrights that I hold on these fish illustrations are a valuable asset to me and my family. The illustrations are a stable source of income that persists long after the initial commission or publication. Throughout my career, I have diligently regulated the reproduction of my artwork and have repeatedly and successfully fought unauthorized use. This policing effort has never been easy, and the proposed changes to existing copyright law would make it nearly impossible.

The proposed changes do not simply represent an abstract legal case. Piracy is theft, and theft isn't tolerated in any other scenario in the United States.

Moreover, the proposed changes will eliminate a large number of jobs for professional illustrators and will also eliminate an economically viable career path for aspiring young artists. Our government should be more concerned with protecting its citizens and their intellectual property than corporate profits.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my earnest opinion.