Elena E. Giorgi
5140 Quemazon
Los Alamos NM 87544

July 21, 2015

To the U.S. Copyright Office
Subject: the new proposed copyright legislature

Good morning, my name is Elena and I am a scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. On my free time I create photo composites. In the past two years my photography has grown a lot. I've had the opportunity to show my work in California, Texas, and in my home state, New Mexico. My first solo show was at the Silver Sun Gallery, in Santa Fe. Last year, my work has been awarded third place in the prestigious International Photography Awards.

Even though photography is not my full time job, my business is starting to grow. I rely on the current copyright law to sell my images and license them for book covers and advertisement. If it weren't for the current copyright law, which makes me the sole owner of the images I create, companies could exploit my work for free. I have many friends for whom photography and, more in general, their art, is their sole income. For anyone to grab their work and use it as they please would not only denigrate the value of hours of work, but it would also take away their income.

As a scientist, my work is valued in hours of deliverables. I don't have to pay to get a copyright on the time I spend on my research. I don't have to register my scientific work. The moment I publish my research work, it is mine and any other scientist who uses it has to cite my original work. Artwork should be treated the same way, and that's what the current copyright law is doing. The only difference is that while as a scientist I'm paid on an hourly basis, artist are paid for the work they deliver. Please don't change the law. Please don't let corporations take advantage of our work so that they can create ads for free while millions of artists, who are already struggling to make ends meet, will be struggling even more.

Best regards,

Elena E. Giorgi, Ph.D.