July 18, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20559-6000
RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket # 2015-01)

To Whom It May Concern:

Our names are Dennis & Joan Burkhart. My husband, Dennis am an internationally recognized wildlife illustrator. Since 1980, he has created international Stamp designs, published wildlife illustrations, giftware illustrations and created murals for local museums and nationally for an outdoor company. I, Joan am a recently retired Art Teacher, painter and set designer & poet.

Please understand that as an Art Teacher, poet and the wife of an Illustrator/Muralist all artwork created by my hand, my students' hand and my husband are OUR OWN THOUGHTS and DESIGNS. The images have been originated from the mind, heart and soul of the artist. To believe that anyone has the right to obtain the copyright of these images other than by current copyright laws is stealing the imagination of the original creator. Should God register the creation of mountains? We, as artists create images to instruct, share, inspire and unite humanity. If those who do not create the images are 'in charge' of how they are distributed then original intent is damaged. Our freedom of Artistic Speech is destroyed. I am thoroughly against the currently proposed copyright bill. I have heard about this an feel it is important to address before ALL PEOPLE who create images have to adhere to a diabolical attempt to cause a fear of creation. Or at the very least cause Artists to spend more time protecting their images and losing their income in doing that thus having less time and energy to create their images.

As a contract muralist and freelance illustrator, Dennis needs to maintain revenue streams to create an income for our family. The resale of past images and is a necessary resource of income. To replace existing copyright laws with a system that benefits internet companies endangers the ability to make a living from originally created images. This is not conducive to the continuation of income for the original artist.

The proposed copyright changes will also create a financial burden to the artist because of the need to register their artwork, so that others can reap the benefit of selling images not created by the registry. We are thoroughly opposed to this legislation which doesn't consider images created by the artist to be the property and financial income of those who originated them.

Thank you for reading this letter. Our recommendation is that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provision Congress is writing into the new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Dennis & Joan Burkhart