I am writing because I am very concerned about the drafting of a new US Copyright Act which would allow my work to be used, profited, and terminate my business of creating art for specific needs. Visual Artists already are preyed upon by the internet. The internet has taken my images and published them on sites I would not condone without any payment to me the creator. I cannot afford to hire lawyers to fight this; and now your proposed new copyright law would make it legal for visual rape. I had always thought that government would protect my rights as a citizen; yet, time after time this copyright revision would assist those who want to take and use my work without renumeration. The majority of artists are hard working citizens. Personally, I have been an artist since 1978. I have supported my two sons alone. In these very difficult times when galleries are closing, people are not buying art, designing for others is our only source of income. If you allow anyone and everyone to use those images we have on the web or elsewhere in whatever manner they wish to do so, you are depriving the creators of making an honest wage for their work.

I have a MA in art, have been published and have received awards. To earn money besides the sale of original paintings and hand pulled prints, I photograph artists works which they post on the web, design published cards, posters, and email invitations . A summary of my life's art works can be seen on the web: www.franckearts.com. (This web site I created myself because I can't afford to hire someone to do it!) My work has also been published by Haddad Fine Arts in poster and giclee format. Although the royalties are minimal, this copyright act would allow any organization or publisher to take my work, publish it either in a physical form or on the web without paying a one time usage fee for limited use.

Most know that there only a few mega star artists out of the millions who make a real living doing it. The rest of us scrape by financially, many holding 2nd and 3rd jobs, and now this act would threaten even the minimal amount of money we make as artists. I have not made over $20000 annually form my art or services for over a decade. We need the web to push what we do even if the majority of web followers tend to be Chinese with their knock off art schools of artists stealing ideas, copying, and publishing.

This copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. We need to retain control of what we produce and how it is used. **In this digital era, our inventory of images is more valuable to us than ever before.** People who have contacted me to use an image would now be able to download it off the web and simply use it wherever and however they wish. Please do not listen only to those with mega bucks who wish to tread upon our right to earn money from what we produce.

Thank you for your attention to my plight and plea.