July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a traditional and digital artist and have been a professional for 15 years. I am greatly concerned about the proposed changes to the copyright laws. As a small business owner, I do not have a lot of resources. Basically, my resources are me and my internet service. I am responsible for creating, selling, publishing, and finding distributors for my work. The internet has offered me many opportunities for selling my work through print on demand galleries, sites like ebay, and advertising through social media. However, this is also a double edged sword in that the copyright infringement is also easier. I don't have a lot of recourse for this, but the one protection that I have right now is current copyright law. Right now I am protected because I automatically own the rights to my work and therefore I am entitled to a remedy under the law if an infringement occurs. Because I don't own a huge company and can't afford to hire anyone, I have to look for infringements on my own and may not find all of them. However, I at least have that protection under current copyright law. If the proposed changes go through I will have a very difficult time receiving any remedy at all.

Prior to 1976, there were no digital painting programs or digital photography and that was a limiting factor on an artist's body of work. Today with digital painting programs, an artist can create a huge body of work in a relatively short time. Being forced to register thousands of works to protect copyright would be a tremendous drain of money and time on most artists, and speaking personally, I cannot afford this. This restriction will destroy creativity and time for most artists and will deter others from becoming artists. Why bother if you can't earn a living doing this?

Artists are human beings and deserve the right to earn a living to survive. The civil rights cry has been " I am a man" and so it can be said for artists. Are we not human beings and do we not have the right to earn a living from our labor? The Article 1 Section 8 of U.S. Constitution grants us the rights to our creations.

Our work does have value when it is created. We have put at the very least our time and labor into our creations, but we also put our life experiences and inspirations into our work. Does this not have value? One study said that most artworks have no value after they are created. I sell my work and others buy it. My customers see value and are willing to pay for my work. Why must I be forced to labor in my chosen trade for free just because someone wants my work. Why is an artist's labor valued less in society than a car mechanic's? We both have specialized skills, but it is demanded that the artist give away her labor. The proposed changes to copyright law will do just that, devalue my artwork and my labor. Under the orphan law, my labor and my work have no value at all. Because I can't comply with the undue burden

of registering every piece of my art, my artwork will be deemed valueless and subject to theft with no recourse under the law. I am not even afforded the simple protections that a car mechanic receives. I am a human being! My labor is worth being protected! I am not a lesser person just because I choose to be an artist! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ellie Taylor