Comments to the Copyright Office regarding its Notice of Inquiry on Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works
from Marcella Martin of Pixelpups.

Dear Sirs,

I am a fine artist and illustrator, who relies on my artwork being protected by copyright. I am concerned by the infringement of my constitutional right to my creative work that the Copyright Office seems to be proposing.

Currently, I have to add protections (watermarks) and warnings that my artwork is under copyright protection anytime I post my work on the internet. I have language in my contracts granting limited use of my artwork. However, as a small business, I do not have the resources to verify that my watermarks and signature have not be illegally removed from my images, so that an infringer can use my image without paying for that use. I also resent the notion that registering or reregistering 20 years of artwork is not a substantial burden in time and finances to me.

In addition, who are these “potential users”? I decide the uses of my artwork. I get paid according to how much use I allow to another party. “Potential users” have no rights to my creations, unless I grant them. Anything else is government sanctioned theft!

I like the current protections that my artwork receives under the current copyright laws. You should be creating penalties for illegally removing watermarks and copyright data. I don’t understand why replaying a song without paying the artist a royalty is any different than reproducing an image without paying the artist a royalty.

Sincerely,
Marcella Martin