Sir / Madam,

I write to you today with regard to the proposed changes to Copyright Law in the United States.

As a visual artist of 30 years' standing, I am strongly opposed to any dilution of artists' rights with regard to copyright protection.

In short - it would put me out of business.

Let me explain: I derive substantial part of my income from the licensing (repeatedly!) of my work either directly or through distributors like Getty Images, Corbis, etc. Any change in legislation that would remove copyright protection from my work and grant access and rights to my work to all-comers would be catastrophic. It is rare to recoup all costs involved in the creation of photographic works through the first license, in fact very often a 'tail' of two to three years is needed to recoup and generate income. Artists also need to pay a mortgage and buy groceries!

I therefore strongly urge you to resist the siren calls of those who would like free access to artists' creative works for their own financial gains. If anything, artists' protection (through copyright and other means) should be strengthened in the digital age, not weakened.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Sattlberger