To whom it may concern:

As a professional artist for the last 35 years and past-president of the distinguished Washington Society of Landscape painters, I am horrified to learn that the US government would actually consider changing the existing copyright laws for artists that would relinquish exclusive control over their artwork. No one except the creator of any specific piece of art should be allowed to use the art without the express permission of the artist, even if the artist is deceased. Appropriate royalties may be paid for use with permission.

There is no such thing as a “good faith” infringer. These infringers are people who want to steal artwork and then copyright these pieces under their own name. That is dishonesty at the highest level.

Imagine doing that to books, songs, sculpture, photographs, or music. Ansel Adams and Andrew Wyeth would turn over in their graves. Taylor Swift recently made a valid and important point about companies stealing songs and that royalties must be paid.

The creative process involved in any of the arts is special and should be protected into perpetuity.

I oppose “The Next Great Copyright Act” for all visual artworks.

Barbara Nuss
Past-president, Washington Society of Landscape Painters,
Founded in 1913.