July 23, 2015

To the United States Copyright Office,

My name is Colin Nitta. I am an illustrator in the science fiction and fantasy genres, living and working in Oakland, California. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Illustration from California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2010, and have been working in my field as a professional since then. My work can be viewed at colinnitta.com .

As an illustrator, my sole source of income is through the sale of printing rights to publications through the exclusive use of the copyright of my original works. I do not create original art for sale as a product – instead, I provide a service that is the licensing of reproduction rights of original art. The copyrights that I inherently own through the original creation of my art are the only assets that I have as an independent business. Only by determining how and where my art is used can I maintain a sustainable income that allows me to continue working as a professional illustrator.

Even after a work is published once, it still has value as a potential revenue stream. Any particular work of art can be licensed and relicensed again, depending on its use and the range of copyrights agreed upon with the buyer. Maintaining an available inventory of works available with licensing rights available for purchase is indispensable to my livelihood.

Please understand that copyright law is not a non-issue for illustrators. It is a necessary safeguard for our means to make a fair and living wage. The current law should not be changed to suit the interests of those who are not in this industry. It is understandable that they may not fully understand the needs of the illustration community, but a fair copyright law to protect the livelihood of independent creators is a clear issue for all.

Sincerely,

Colin Nitta