I am a 2D visual artist and have been since 2007. I work in watercolors and alcohol inks.

My artwork has exhibited in various juried shows, published in the Artist's Magazine, and featured on wine labels. I also teach art.

My source of income is my artwork. Maintaining copyright to those works I create—after initial publication—is not an abstract legal issue for me. It is CRUCIAL to my livelihood and the basis upon which my business rests. Whether this is licensing my images—such as for use on wine labels—or using the images I created from which to teach workshops—it is my source of income.

Once again, maintaining the ability to generate income from my art--after initial publication--is vital to supporting myself. Infringing upon my work is like stealing from me.

It is important to my business that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my artwork is used.

My work does NOT lose value upon publication. In fact, the majority of my income is generated after publication. And everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. In this age of "digital," my inventory is more valuable to me than ever before.

Thank you for reading this letter and taking into consideration how this law would significantly impact working, professional artists.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Blevins