July 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an artist and have been working in this field 43 years. The last 13 for myself, creating my own paintings. I've been blessed to have won numerous awards within the North Carolina Professional Photographers association as well as obtaining my Signature Membership within the Watercolor Society of North Carolina. I am a portrait artist as well as painting various subjects in watercolors and oils.

I believe as artists, our works/paintings are our property and should not be infringed upon. The sales of my paintings are my livelihood and again, should not allow anyone to infringe upon this right without due compensation on their part and my agreement to allow them to do so. Plainly put, I should be able to determine how and by whom my work is allowed to be used. No one else.

Just because someone has purchased an original painting from me, it does not automatically mean they own the copyright and license for that painting; it is still retained by me.

I would appreciate Congress listening to the "voice' of artists and not pass this law.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Hight

Louisburg, NC 27549