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July 23, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
1011 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington D.C. 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry Copyright Office
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works
(Docket No. 201`5-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante a nd Copyright Office,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond on the effects copyright law has on my illustration career.
I am an award-winning professional illustrator who makes my lively-hood completely off my artwork. Since life as a freelance artist is difficult, without a steady income, I supplement my commissioned work with the re-sale rights of my past paintings. My copyright notice at this time protects my right to be compensated for future usage of my images. This will be crucial when I am too old to continue accepting commissioned illustration assignments.

At this time if my work is used without my knowledge, I am protected by the existing Copyright Laws. With my copyright notice on my work, I can negotiate a usage fee and avoid the time consuming Small Claims Court. It is a great hardship to go through Small Claims Court, so to lesson the artists' protective rights will hurt all creatives.

By lessening and changing the existing Copyright Law, not making it stronger and more stringent, the artists of America will suffer greatly both economically and emotionally. We will no longer have control to protect the integrity of our work, to prevent modification, and to be paid for multiple usages. This change in the Copyright Law of ”Life plus 70 years” will systematically kill artistic careers and hurt the US economy.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Chalmers