JULY 22, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Carlyn Iverson and I work as a scientific/medical illustrator and photographer. I have had a career spanning over 20 years providing accurate and aesthetic illustration work for medical and scientific research, college level science textbooks, work for our National and State Parks system, Zoological and Botanical Gardens, law firms and many, many other clients.

It has come to my attention that my work, along with other artists that create visual art are now at risk of losing our copyright to our work through the proposed Orphan Works legislation. It was a shock that penetrated to my core when I read the intention of this legislative change, knowing that a large piece of my middle-class income would be lost to me that comes from stock revenues and the ability to create and control derivative work.

As a self-employed person in the business of generating visual imagery for others, I have seen a market change over the past few decades that has dwindled my income from global competition, the increased pressure to create work under the "Work for Hire" act, the loss of income when images are lifted from the internet without compensation let alone permission to do so, and so on.

In the United States, we have laws to protect the copyright of every other group of artists, from musicians to writers, and even stronger laws protecting the intellectual property of corporations. That legislature was created to prevent the stealing of creativity/inventiveness to keep both citizen and corporate interests strong, and in turn keeping America strong by protecting intellectual rights.

Imagine that an Orphaned Works Act also affected software design, or medical device design, military design plans, or other visual pieces of intellectual properties that would allow a type of corporate espionage.

The bottom line though is about the money. I believe this country was founded on a group of basic premises dealing with the pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The freedoms granted us and the constitution to pretect those freedoms are at odds with a proposed legislative act that would place severe limits on income from a created work, limit the ability to create freely and have ownership/control of those creations and their derivative work.

My reputation has been built from the accuracy and aesthetics when I create illustrations showing scientific concepts. I am known for this level of accuracy and honest portrayal. It is my Trademark that helps me stand out from others. It took

life long education, skills training and constant due diligence on my part to be such an artist. Imagine how my personal character, my Trademark, and my reputation would be affected if anyone could use the "Orphaned Act" to lift illustrations created with vetted and accurate scientific content and then distort this content for political or religious reasons. This does not advance science but hinder it. You might say that this wouldn't happen. But this attempt has already been built into a business model by Flat World Publishing. I was invited to work with this company in producing science textbooks. It wasn't until they explained to me that any work produced by their authors would be available to others who could create derivative works for their own classrooms. These new works would be unvetted.
This would include the ability to take evolutionary concepts, biological concepts, genetics or other fields of science and distort the content to conform to a particular political or belief system. I did not pursue this project with Flat World Publishing because of the vulnerability of giving up copyright to my work. I am proud of the truth and accuracy I place in my illustrations and will protect it as best I can because my work is a reflection of me. It is my identity, it is my Trademark.

I know that the world is changing. Changing quickly, driven by the digital marketplace. But behind this vast interconnection of information are people. People who need to make a living, people who feel responsible for what they create and contribute to the world, and people who already have a tough competitive world to live in. Please, please don't make this world even harder for artists to stay afloat, just to make it easier for others to circumvent paying for another's hard work.

Thank you for the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,

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