July 23, 2015

Dear Lawmakers,

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to retain those elements of the copyright law that automatically protect an original work of art when it is created.

I am a professional artist and have been working in many mediums (painting, drawing, print-making and photography) for more than forty years. My work has appeared in numerous newspapers, catalogs and Newsletters throughout those 40 years and has received numerous awards. I have taught painting classes and continue to sell my art. I have been on a 10-year “sabbatical” for the past ten years, due to family health issues, but certainly plan to return to my active professional status in the near future.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. Our copyrights are the products we license, which means that infringing our work is like stealing our money. It is important to my business that I remain able to determine, voluntarily, how and by whom my work is used.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

I would greatly appreciate your giving serious consideration to NOT changing the current copyright law, which, in my opinion, would rob us artists of our rightful protection.

Respectfully,

Beryl Adams