July 22, 2015

Dear Members of Congress,

I am a transparent watercolor artist that is extremely concerned in regards to "The Next Great Copyright Act" which would replace all existing copyright law. I have been an artist for 40 years. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and taught art and other subjects for 25 years. I belong to the Watercolor Society of Oregon and am actively involved in art groups and galleries in southern Oregon.

Retaining copyright of my paintings is a key to my business. If someone else can receive copyright of my paintings, this affects my income and the value collectors place on my work. It is important that I maintain control of how my work is used or published. If I publish my work, it does not lose value but if someone else had the opportunity to publish or alter my work, it would lose value.

When an artist spends days or weeks or more envisioning a creation and then spends possibly as much time creating their work, there is no reason that anyone other than the creator should have the copyright to the work. Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue but is the basis of an art business.

I realize that I am not a Rembrandt, Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso or other famous artist but I do have a following and would never want my collectors to feel they are purchasing altered art or a piece that someone else has the copyright. The digital age has created a time where it is even more important for artists to maintain copyright of their products.

Sincerely,

Betty Barss

www.bettybarss.com