Marion & Company
123 White Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Dear Copyright Office and Congress:

This letter is in protest the new proposed copyright laws. I have worked in the industry for over 40 years as a graphic artist, an art director, photographer, visual artist and technical writer. I can't imagine giving the rights to my original work to anyone for free, unless I so desire.

Copyright laws have protected writers, musicians, and artists from unlawful use of their "products"…the hard work of their hands, hearts and souls. I cannot directly copy a corporation's product, or copyright it as my own. Why should anyone be able to do that to my work?

Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business and livelihood rests. My work is my product. Creativity, training, skill, time, research, development, planning, and money go into producing that product…just as any corporation invests in the products they bring to market.

My work endures; it is not produced for a one time usage. That work becomes part of my product line, part of my intellectual property…my inventory. It is my right to control how my products, my art, is sold and used.

As an example, many years ago, an illustration of mine was used for a local physicians group on their new brochure. As their practice grew, they saw the need for a larger campaign with print ads, bill boards and more. We negotiated a new price for the expanded usage. Photographers were hired with the agreement that their work would be used for this original usage and if the usage of their work expanded, a new price would be negotiated. This was a standard practice in the business.

In this digital age, our rights should be strengthened. It weakens us all if your work is stolen, co-opted, modified and then sold or copyrighted with no return to us. Corporations fight a constant battle against counterfeit goods because of the loss of money and good will.

Tell me how these new copyright laws will benefit me and the creative community. Tell me how it will strengthen my rights as a creative person. Tell me how I can continue to make a livelihood from the work of my own mind and hands. I cannot see the benefits to the people who produce the amazing, beautiful world of images we delight in as we move through our day.

Please do not enact this new copyright law. It will be devastating. It will break hearts. It will break souls.

Artist