To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned about retaining complete control, including copyright, of my own works of Visual art.

I have been a professional artist since the '90's, primarily a painter, also an art cartist (decorating vehicles) and also fought this copyright battle a few years ago as an Illustrator and designer, my former career.

Occasionally I have sold the rights to use my drawings and paintings, often for more than the value of the art. I've won numerous awards have been in books, magazines, on radio and television.

Therefor I'm “all over the net” (I just googled myself, as Kelly Lyles, or I use 'L. Kelly Lyles', & it generated 500,000 hits, it's occasionally been up to almost 1 million). So needless to say, I want to protect my rights! For me/us, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which our business rests. Our copyrights are the products we license, and infringing our work is like stealing our money. People are constantly taking pictures of our work in this digital age, I always request accreditation when I see it happening. But I am more concerned about agencies & 'the big guns' helping themselves to art without having to pay for it. It's important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.

Our work does NOT lose its value upon publication, if anything that is generating publicity and inceasing the value, the same way the art on the postcard or that is chosen for print is usaully the most prized in any given show. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory, an in this digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

Please take Visual artist's rights into consideration in your hearings, my copyright is part of my limited income. Art is not valued enough in this society where everything's about business and coporations rights. I think that attiutude is leading to some of the moral decay, art and artists need encouragement, and the entire country benefits from their/our creativity. Please protect our profession (and hobbies) from being overtaken by greed.

Sincerely yours,

L. Kelly Lyles, Seattle, WA.