MarySue Noble
1226 Vine Street
McKees Rocks, PA 15226

July 9, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing you in response to your Notice of Inquiry regarding Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works.

As a professional visual artist, I have been illustrating and creating graphic design works for over 15 years. I currently do design work in a number of genres, including computational science, theatre and book design and illustration. I am also affiliated with the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators. My work varies from children's illustration to medical and biological illustration, as well as advertising work for various entities.

I am quite concerned about the proposed changes to the current copyright protection laws. Quite a few of my copyrights are what make up my product line and I derive income from the licensing of my copyrighted imagery. The utilization of my designs without obtaining a license to do so would be akin to stealing money from my pocket. I have worked hard to design my copyrighted material and it is vital to my business that I can continue to control and manage how, and by whom, my work is to be used. Contrary to the assertion being promoted by proponents for the proposed change to these copyright protection laws, I can definitely say that my work has not lost its value after its original publication. If anything, publication and visibility of my work has increased its value and has contributed often to my personal income as a visual artist.

Everything that we create, as visual artists becomes part of our business inventory, often contributing nicely to our annual profit. Especially given the current digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. Although the majority of my income is not derived from illustration, I would not welcome someone else monetizing your work for their own profit without your knowledge or consent. This would not be fair to me and would result in my losing a good deal of my annual income.

Please do not adopt the changes, especially those changes known as the Orphan Works Act, as they are wrongful changes that will only serve to assist corporate financial interests regarding our intellectual property, ultimately hurting the individual artists, the creators of the work.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

MarySue Noble