Dear Congress Members:

Please do not allow any laws to pass which may violate the copyrights held by illustrators (or authors!). Most of us are self-employed and have families to support. If anyone and everyone has free access to our work, illustrations or words, we do not get paid for the labor we've done.

Do you want to work for free? Do you know of anyone who wants to work for free? I don't.

Most of us do not make much money as it is. Most of our yearly salaries are lower than those of teachers.

Please, please, please do not allow any legislation to pass that would keep us from being paid for the work we have labored at. Creative people will not remain in this field if laborers are expected to work for free.

Isn't working for free considered to be slavery? Oh, yeah, we fought a war to abolish it ….

Thank you all so much for all the hard work you do to protect our country and those who live in our great nation.

Respectfully yours,

Melody Lorbeer