July 21, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

Dear Ms. Pallante and Copyright Staff,

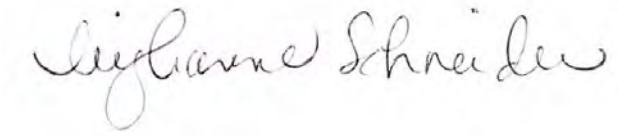
I am writing to ask that you create a policy to protect visual authors and their exclusive rights, and support a steady environment for professional authorship.

I am also writing to express that for me as an illustrator and other artists like me, that copyright law is not a complex issue; our copyrights are our assets. My artwork is my inventory. As an artist I retain the copyrights to any work I do upon creation. All I have to generate revenue is the copyright to my work. For professional authors like me and many others these rights are created through effort, time and money in the production of my artistic creations. I have invested in my field to be able pay my health insurance, retirement, continuing education, and overhead. ALL of these must be covered by the licensing fees earned from the creation of my original works. Without copyright security I will be unable to protect the accuracy and integrity of my work, therefore unable to negotiate appropriate fees for licensing and re – licensing.

It's troubling to read the proposed language that 'potential user's' rights are equal to those of creators, and that language promotes the notion that theft is acceptable. In any other setting taking property without permission or payment is stealing- unauthorized electronic file sharing is no different.

Individuals and companies should find images they can use legally, with permissions from the artists and artists' rights need to be secured.

Sincerely,



Leighanne Schneider
Illustrator