Hello Copyright Office

,My name is Loren Fidalgo and I am an artist. I have been a creator of many things since I was a child and professionally since I graduated college at Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia, PA in 1987.

Copyrighting my work is one of the most important parts of creating it. In 1987 I became seriously ill. There was at that time, no medication for me to take. Just within the last several years I have found treatment that has been extremely helpful. I was really unable to work consistently and sometimes for months at a time. Knowing now that I may not have the rights to my work is very upsetting. I am back in the swing of things and I am starting a small business, and copyrighting my work is the key to protecting my work from infringers. My work is very unique and created from my heart and soul and any chance of an infringer profiting off of my work would be detrimental to my business. After so many years being ill, I had a lot of time to think about starting a business and knowing that I could copyright my work successfully was a great comforter during trying times. Without copyright protection, it may become difficult to create art and put it out into the world if it is not able to be protected from infringers. What a sad commentary. Copyrights are the most important things I own and to lose the rights to them is devastating to me and other artists.

I will also start to license some of my work and knowing that it can be infringe upon easily, will be a huge detriment to have the motivation to creating it as well as manufacturers wanting to license unprotected work. I do not want someone else monetizing off of my work that I had put sweat and tears into. Why would it be good for an infringer to steal works from artists and profit off of the work they steal? Why would artists want to create art and then put it out there if they cannot successful ly protect it? Art as we know it will seriously change and may wilt in many significant ways and possibly, die.

My Dad was a toy designer for Kohiner Bros. Toys for many years before he tragically passed away in 1974 at the age of 40. I was only 14. It was devastating to lose him. He worked on the game 'TROUBLE' and it's pop-o-matic however, he received no credit or monetary benefits since he was a work for hire. In some ways , what may happen now with copyright protection laws potential changes , is a reminder of the loss of my Dad's rights to the game he was so instrumental in creating.

If artists cannot protect t their work successfully,I am afraid of the future of art as we know it. What will happen to society without art and design? What will our enviroment look like without art hanging on our walls, on our greeting cards, on our shower curtains, book covers, children's books etc. Would you want to live in a world with no art? Think about it. What will happen if copyrighting get so expensive that great artists can no longer afford to copyright their work because they cannot afford it?

In closing, I am worried for the direction we will be heading if these new copyright laws are put into action. I don't know what will happen to the business I am starting and the living I can make without the security of artist friendly copyright protection. How will I survive and try to make a living, after being ill for so long if I cannot afford the fees to register my work, as well as having the permanent fear of others

producing my art for their benefit? Please keep my business safe and without fear. Please, act on behalf of the artists and what we believe is the best way to protect our work from infringers who want to profit off of our work without our consent. Please stand up for the protection of the artists. In this case, we know what's best for our businesses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Loren Fidalgo