COPYWRITE INFRINGEMENT

Dear Sirs,

I am a professional artist. I learned to paint from my Mother who was also an artist and started my lessons in art at age six, I am now seventy two. I did not attend art school beyond what I learned in Public school. However, my art is an expression of my personal feelings and interests. It comes from within and is a vital expression of who I am.

My fine art is exhibited on a National Show circuit in juried shows and frequently shown in Museums. The value of my work is not depreciated by this but increased. One of my works recently returned from a three year tour of Museums across the United States.

I am astounded that one of my personal talents and professional source of income is being threatened by my own government. Your changing of the copyright law is what I consider a form of theft! Now any of the creative talents I have can be taken away by anyone who can take a photo of them or see them online! Everyone owns a camera everyone is on the Internet. One of the only assets that I can pass on to my children is my art. If I cannot depend on my own government, those whom I gave my support and vote, to protect my inborn talent from thief I cannot see the point in continuing to produce art. Nor can I see the point in voting!

Being the 'land of the free' should not include the freedom to steal artistic works from the artists who created them. What I gather from this change is that those with money and no artistic talent are attempting to get use of works they neither imagined nor produced for their own purposes and income. This is theft plain and simple! They might as well have invaded my studio and stolen my art off the walls.

If this change is made what will be the next target? Will we lose all our independence and all rights to the unique abilities we were born with? I certainly hope not! I do hope that you have to courage and foresight to protect those who have worked so hard in a field they love to continue to do so without the threat of thief from those who do not have the ability or talent to do what we do only the power to influence those who can control this decision!

Sincerely

Linda M. Norton