July 18, 2015

To: Maria Pallante, Register of Copyrights

As a proud American artist, I've made it my livelihood to create artwork and have blossomed doing as such. I create both traditional and digital works of art which feature primarily animals. I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in April of 2013. I've always felt confident under the current copyright laws that my work would always remain my own. I created it; it's mine and forever will be. This basic right of a creator like myself is as American as it gets. In regards to the recently proposed changes to the copyright laws, I am very troubled by the overall tone of the proposed language that 'potential users' rights are equivalent to those of creators. They are not. If I as the creator do not want my image licensed beyond the original use, re-used, re-purposed, re-imagined, re-combined, that is my prerogative. If a 'potential user', individual or company, wants to further their business by using imagery, and can't find an image they can legally use, then they can do what individuals and companies have done for the decades before electronic file sharing - commission a new one, and keep illustrators working.

Artwork fuels each and every American industry. From the auto industry to engineering, to education and research, and the arts themselves, there's no area of human creation that isn't touched by the creative spirit and aesthetics of artists. Please protect our rights as artists. We fuel the economy with our artwork. Please don't take our industry away from us.

Sincerely,

Margo Anderson

Independent Illustrator