Marsh Myers
PO Box 2691
Corvallis, Oregon 97339
marshmyers.com

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U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Marsh Myers and for the last 30 years I have been a freelance artist, writer, photographer and videographer. I am writing today to comment on the proposed changes to the U.S. copyright laws — changes which I believe will have a disastrous effect on myself and every other artist, photographer, musician, author etc. in the country.

The proposed changes being backed by giant internet firms are thinly-veiled attempts to create new profit centers for these corporations while violating the creative rights of American citizens. Imagine a social network which can pilfer any photo or artwork place on someone's feed and resell it for their own purposes? Or snatch up any artist creation not appropriately licensed as an "orphaned" work? Under current law, this type of activity is illegal. But if these changes are enacted where will it lead and whom will it hurt?

Having inherent copyright protection from the moment a work is created is one of the most valuable tools an artist like me has to protect not only our work but our income. Changing these laws to benefit rich corporate interests is not only immoral, it places a massive economic burden on those of us already struggling to work in the creative fields.

But I think the more important question is who the copyright laws are supposed to protect? I believe that the intention of the U.S. Constitution in enabling the government to enact such laws was **to protect the artist and his or her creation** — and in a much larger sense their livelihood. It was not to intended to help create new income for corporate interests by allowing them to essentially pilfer artists' works.

The field of commercial art and creation is already very challenging and competitive. It is often difficult for those of us working in this field to make a decent living with the hurdles we already have to overcome. But up to this point, at least we didn't have to worry about our creative rights because the copyright laws enacted in the mid-70s provided good protection. Please don't change that.

I would like to encourage you to keep the laws how they are and reject attempts by corporate forces to steal what is not their's while simultaneously hurting every artists in the country. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Marsh Myers