July 16, 2015

Dear Copyright Office:

My name is Linda M. Feltner and I am a professional artist. The "Next Great Copyright Act" is alarming, and will eliminate the control I currently have over my own work.

I have been painting and drawing since as long as I can remember. My life encompasses drawing and painting all aspects of nature. And I have been fortunate to build a career around what I love.

I am a self-employed natural history artist who has maintained a flourishing business for over 25 years. Hundreds of my illustrations have illuminated interpretive educational graphics including artwork for visitor centers, trail signage, and books. I am also a fine art painter. My family has been supported solely by my artwork.

I am also an educator, teaching with renowned institutions and providing workshops across the U. S. I have spent a career inspiring other artists and it has been extremely rewarding. How can I instruct someone to be the most creative artist they can be, when their ideas and possibly income is vulnerable to theft?

To lose the ability to control what happens to my artwork, and that someone or some company could take it as is, or make "derivative works" under their own name, would deprive me of a living.

This "copyright reform" comes from huge firms that want to do extremely small amount of "research" to find the artist, and they want to make money off of someone else's work: i.e. my work, my colleagues, my friends, and my students.

This will not serve the artists who spend thousands of dollars to educate themselves, create the art, maintain a business, and develop careers. This takes away the artist's basic ability to control their artwork as we have done so in the past.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns.
Most Sincerely,
Linda M. Feltner
Linda M. Artist LLC.
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