Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes
606 Elkins Ave
Elkins Park, PA 19027

July 14, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am taking the time to write today in order to express my extreme objection to the proposed "Next Great Copyright Act." I am an award-winning, professional visual artist who graduated from the University of Oxford in 1999, and since 2009 I have made my full-time living creating and selling my artwork. I sell my original work, as well as reproduction prints of my work, and I also license the rights for my work to several companies who create greeting cards, puzzles, and other products utilizing my surface designs.

It is important for me to convey to you that copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but rather the basis upon which my business rests. Allowing copyright infringements on my original work is theft, as would be allowing derivative works to be created using my original art. I have an extremely high art metabolism, meaning I create constantly, and these creations are my sole source of income. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory, and having complete control over my inventory is the only way I can continue to run my business and provide for my future. Let me also assure you that my work does NOT lose its value upon publication.

Do not privilege the public with the rights to my work. Do not allow infringers to steal my intellectual property. Do not allow others to alter and then copyright my original artwork as derivative works in their name. Do not allow this travesty of a law to irrevocably harm the careers and livelihoods of American artists.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes