Myles Pinkney, Professional Artist
www.mylespinkney.com/

Maria Pallante
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Dear Ms. Pallente,

I have been working as a professional artist for over thirty years. The greater part of my income is derived from licensing my work. This includes book and magazine covers, calendars, collector plates, puzzles, limited edition prints, posters, sculptures and numerous other forms of publication.

It is not unusual for me to spend six months or more on one piece. Christmas Presence (www.mylespinkney.com/christmaspresence.htm) is one such image. I could not make enough money to live on if I were not able to license the reproduction rights for several different products, to multiple publishers, and for limited periods of time. This image has been licensed for Christmas cards several times, a cross-stitch pattern, a standee, 'December' in several calendars, collector plates, as well as prints that we publish ourselves to sell through various channels. A few years ago, this image was found being used as a book cover by an author on Amazon. She claimed that her graphic designer had 'found' it, assumed it to be in the public domain and had designed the book cover around it. I disabused her of the notion that my artwork could be used without my permission and it was withdrawn.

The catalog of art that I have created has taken a lifetime and is the center of my livelihood. My contracts with my clients stipulate that I am the sole copyright owner of my work. If others can publish the same artwork without my permission, those contracts are meaningless.

I am asking that creators rights be maintained and strengthened. This proposed change to copyright law will undermine our rights.

In addition, I would like to ask the copyright office to become the champion of creators' rights, making it more difficult for the pirates to steal from us. Those who want this new legislation are not interested in our rights, nor those of future artists, but it is incumbent on you to be that champion.

Sincerely,

Myles Pinkney