Leonard J. Jagoda
Backstretch Studio
604 Twin Lakes Road
Waverly Hall, GA
31813

To: U.S. Copyright Office

RE: [Docket No. 2015–01]
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

U.S. Copyright Office, Library

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been an independent free lance professional artist for eight years. I was not able to accept a scholarship to the Cleveland Institute of Art because I was drafted in 1967, but late went to college on the GI Bill, graduating with a Business Administration degree with minors in Computer Science and Management Information Systems. I became a professional artist doing realistic works in oils, pastels and sculptures cast in bronze after a long career in business. Since entering the art world I have received over 45 awards for my artworks at the national, regional and state levels and have works accepted to international exhibitions. In addition to original renderings, I also market high quality reproductions of my art in limited editions. Revenues from my artwork account for a significant portion of our family income. For me, copyrights are essential to protecting my livelihood, they are essential to the existence of my business and artist like me epitomize small business America. It is critical for me and others like me to control how and by whom our work is used. I have already identified one entity that had stolen images of my works via the internet and selling reproductions of them in direct competition with ***me***. I was able to have them discontinue this practice; but, this illustrates not only how important copyright protection is to me; but, also that publication does ***not*** cause this work to lose value. These works of art and my reproductions of them are my business inventory. As the theft of my work has illustrated, in a digital era, an artist's inventory is more valuable than it might ever have been before.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard (Len) Jagoda