To:Maria Pallante Register of Copyrights U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S. E. Washington, DC 20559-6000

Re: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress Copyright Protection
for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante & US Copyright Office Staff:

I am writing this letter to express my extreme objection to the Copyright's Office plans to create a new Copyright Act that would negatively impact all visual artists. I have been self employed for over 25 years as a Certified Medical Illustrator, a specialized field that includes an M.S. in anatomy and extensive coursework in the sciences and art. I have created thousands of images over the years ranging from textbook illustration to museum exhibits (including a significant ancient animals exhibit at the Smithsonian NMNH). Retaining the licensing rights and ownership to my images is crucial to my survival as an independent artist. This copyright reform would affect all artists detrimentally as it would void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work by privileging the public's right to use our work for free and promoting infringement. The reforms planned would promote corporate interests and destroy any chance of making a living as an artist. At least 50% of my business is supported be licensing artwork that I own. If I am to survive as an individual self employed artist in the digital world, the Copyright Office must continue to recognize the artist's right to protect their art and intellectual property, and not make it prohibitive to register every design they want to protect. It is entirely unfair to make it easier for infringers to create and register derivative works and to reduce financial penalties for infringement, and in turn make it prohibitively expensive and time consuming on the artists part to register every design (past, present and future works) in order to protect it. Please take the needs of all visual artists into consideration when drafting this new legislation and work to protect authorship and not make it easier for infringers to steal our work.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie O'Keefe, Certified Medical Illustrator