Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing to you today to let you know how the proposed copyright reform would affect me and my livelihood as a small, independent artist and graphic designer. My business involves creating custom clip art and other resources for other artists and designers to use in their commercial and personal projects. The works are mine- I conceive of them, paint them, scan them, then make them available online for a price. I graduated from Memphis College of Art with a BFA in painting this year. I have, however, been licensing and selling my clip art for three years. Having this opportunity to do liscencing has allowed me to make lots of personal connections with my customers, all while ensuring that my work is being used appropriately and with my permission.

Copyright law is not just something that I have to be aware of in my job- it IS my job. I have spent hours pouring over the intricacies of copyright law so I can be knowledgeable about my own rights as the creator, as well as the rights of my customers to create derivative works. It should not be legal for a potential customer to decide not to pay me and sell my work. Every use of my work has it's own inherent value. One instance of publication does not "orphan" my work, it actually makes it more valuable to me. Without copyright law on my side, I will have no protection against art thieves stealing my artwork. Where they may have at one point had to pay to use my artwork, they will be able to take it without compensating me- which is theft.

I have an enormous inventory of artwork that I have created specifically for other people to be able to use in works of their own. I license these products and I sell them. All of my past illustrations are my inventory and they belong to me and me alone. I care deeply about this issue because it's my job. Copyright law protects me and ensures that I get paid, as well as many other artists will get paid.

Please take my words into consideration, as well as the words of hundreds of other artists who rely on copyright law.

Molly Van Roekel