July 22, 2015

Dear U.S. Copyright Office

The proposed bill to rewrite current copyright laws has been proposed twice in the past and was defeated as a bad idea both times. Once again, special interest groups are attempting to tear away protections. The secretive process of writing the bill is a detriment to the very foundation of tenets of the republic. The damage that would be done to individual artists, writers, designers, cartoonists, illustrators, etc., would be irreparable.

Issues:

It would void their Constitutional right to the exclusive control of their work.

It would "privilege" the public's right to use their work.

It would "pressure" them to register their entire life's work with commercial registries.

It would "orphan" unregistered work.

It would make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.

It would allow others to alter their work and copyright those "derivative works" in their own names.

It would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

It would bankrupt many artists, etc., as they would no longer receive appropriate compensation for their work.

This demand for copyright "reform" from large Internet firms and legal scholars allied with them would eliminate the ability of creators to control how their work is used and when without paying the artists. The proposed “reforms” would allow them to stock their databases with work created by someone us forcing the creators to hand over their images as *registered* works, or by harvesting *unregistered* works as orphans and copyrighting them as "derivative works."

With all due respect, I request NOT be rewritten to benefit these special interest groups. Leave the protections for those creative individuals in place.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Ingram