July 21, 2015

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 and the Copyright Office Staff:

As a commercial artist for the past forty years, as well as a crafter and former art director, I am appalled at the changes being proposed regarding the copyright laws in regard to visual arts in particular. The artwork and crafts I produce are the product of many years of schooling, additional workshops, specialty courses and untold hours practicing my craft.

My years in the gift and stationery industry went from being a wonderful career working with knowledgeable creative directors to a frustrating experience with marketing managers calling the shots, stealing artwork, painting over original art, ducking out of signed contracts etc. The thing that saved me was the fact I owned the copyright and could withdraw permission for use. The proposed changes make it all too easy for unscrupulous, uneducated and frankly lazy, clients to steal and change artwork or crafted items for their products without compensation to me for the concept. This is unacceptable.

Pharmaceuticals, scientific technologies and engineering marvels have patent protections. Artists have copyright safeguards for the protection of the integrity of their work. Copyright protections also have the benefit of providing a financial incentive for artists/crafters to create because their work can be licensed and marketed based on their reputation. Without strict copyright protection, artists and craftsman like myself cease to create. After all- what will be the point if our work is literally stolen?

Because the proliferation of art will continue to be spread via the internet with an uneducated public regarding usage, it is more important than ever to strengthen an individual's copyright protection. Too often corporations feel they can lift a concept for a product or marketing without tracking the originator. Whatever funds these proposed changes are costing us taxpayers, I would suggest they would be put to better use educating art buyers and artists regarding usage.

This country has been a leader in free thought, ideas and creativity. However, if copyright protections are not strongly in favor of the creator, our role as a creative incubator will diminish rapidly.

I urge you to strengthen the copyright protections for individuals- not diminish them in favor of short term gain for the benefit of monolithic corporations. The future of creative thought depends upon it.

Regards,
Patty Rosencrantz