July 23, 2015

PO Box 68
South Lima, NY 14558

United Stated Copyright Office

Dear Copyright Office Personnel,

I'm writing to request that you deny the proposed changes to the Copyright Laws of the United States. For 26 years I've made my living and supported my family as an independent artist. For the first 10 years I worked as a freelance illustrator, the last 16 as a fine artist.

My career took a drastic change with the launch of the internet 20 years ago, with the collapse of my then consistently growing illustration business. And the collapse was direct result of the changes that resulted from the newly able digital transfer of images, and the image/stock houses that cropped up over night to digitally warehouse illustration work, and then offer it at cut-rate prices. That practice has only contiuned to this day, with the lions share of the income going to the stockhouses, rather than the creative people who have produced the work being sold.

The new proposed changes to the Copyright law will make those changes more drastic, with individuals and businesses having the ability to digitize, inventory and sell the work of artists everywhere, with little to no compensation what so ever.

For myself and my family, the granting of automatic copyright to myself for any and all work I create as an independent artist is critical to the protection of my rights, my income, and whatever family legacy I may develop. Were I required to pay for the inventorying and registration with a private agency, all the work I have produced and will produce, that cost and burden of labor would be completely prohibitive. And without affording this, I would lose control of my own work, ceding the right o use it to someone else. My copyright is the control of my income. The privatization scenario would amount to be extorted to protect creative product, and my ever building inventory of work available for license.

Please reject the proposed changes to the Copyright Laws.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Harrington