US Copyright Office
Comment on copyright protection
Robin Peterson, illustrator www.fernwoodstudio.com

I am writing in regard to new copyright considerations being entertained in congress. I am specifically concerned by the new "orphan works and mass digitization" proposals. I reject the idea that the public has a right to use my work without permission with or without my registration of the images and I submit that enacting some of the changes being considered now will materially affect my ability to make a livelihood from my work.

My name is Robin Peterson, <www.fernwoodstudio.com> I make my living as a commercial illustrator and painter since 1993. In the niche of natural science and veterinary medical fields I provide award winning freelance illustration services to individuals and to larger corporations (advertising, magazine & book markets, educational institutions, etc). My "product" consists of specific reproduction rights to the images I create and copyright licensure agreements are a basic part of my business. Infringing on my copy rights as they stand now is exactly like stealing money from my pocket. Forcing image registration is the unacceptable addition of a commercial middleman and will also significantly burden my business.

It is important that I remain in control of how and who uses my work for my business to function. My work is commonly re-used for purposes other than what it was originally created for. The value of the work is NOT lost upon publication, in fact, it increases with exposure to prospective clients that may find it useful for other purposes. Virtually all of my work can be considered as business inventory that significantly adds to my income with additional use after it's original publication. Even in the case of animal portraiture where the original physical work is sold, I retain the right to sell digital or print copies to other buyers, adding to my business' digital image inventory.

Please consider the concerns of small business owners such as myself as you work with this difficult issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Peterson, illustrator