To: The Copyright Office

July 7, 2015

To All Concerned,

I am respectfully asking lawmakers not to approve “The Next Great Copyright Act.”

I have been a children’s book illustrator for 44 years and this is my only source of income.

My education includes a BFA from Washington University in St. Louis and an MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N. Y. I have illustrated over 60 books for children and contributed to numerous magazines for children.

Among my awards for illustrated books are numerous ALA Notable Book Awards, Certificate of Excellence from the American Institute of Graphic Artists, The American Writers Award for Best Illustrator and many others.

I have taught at library conferences, school visits and have been an artist-in-residence several times.

Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue to me, but the basis on which my business rests. My income and ONLY income is from the work I have done in children’s books. Our copyrights are the products we license. It means that infringing on my work is like stealing my money. It’s important to my business that I am able to remain determining voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does NOT lose its value upon publication but becomes part of my business inventory. I continue to receive royalties that make up a large part of my income since I am now 70 years old.

In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to me and other artists than ever before.

I respectfully submit my concerns,

John C. Wallner