Joan Iaconetti - Copyright Protection
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RE: Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Regarding “The next great copyright law”: I have been a professional writer, photographer, and artist for over 33 years. Please understand that my income depends on keeping the copyrights to my work.

Although lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once artists’ work has been published, it has virtually no further commercial value, **that is simply not true.**

I have published hundreds of articles in dozens of national magazines, published my travel photographs in many magazines and guidebooks, and now sell my watercolor paintings for $2600-$3600. In each case, I have been careful to keep the copyright on my work and make it clear to my editors and buyers that I retain that copyright in perpetuity. **Reprints of articles, additional sales of photographs, and the right to sell digital prints of my own paintings are ESSENTIAL to my income and well-being.**

Although I hold a Masters degree and have won awards for my work, I have never had a corporate job or the attendant pension and benefits. **For me, and for all artists, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which our business rests.** Our copyrights are the products we license. Infringing upon our work is like stealing our money.

It it vital to our businesses that all artists remain able to determine voluntarily how, and by whom, our work is used. **Furthermore, our work does NOT lose its value upon publication.** Everything we create becomes part of our business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

PLEASE do not allow the existing copyright law to be weakened in any way!

Many thanks for your attention and concern.

Sincerely,
Joan Iaconetti