July 8, 2015

James Faecke, Owner/Illustrator
James Faecke, LLC
2315 Rugby Row
Madison, WI 53726

To: Copyright Office

Re: Proposed changes to copyright laws

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a working artist and have been working in the fine art and architectural illustration field for over 40 years. I studied Architecture at the University of Texas and have a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. I have been a member of the American Society of Architectural Illustrators (ASAI) since 2006. Over the years, I have been awarded six Awards of Excellence by the ASAI.

I strongly disagree with proposed revisions to current copyright laws which will allow corporations to use unregistered, derivative or “orphaned” works without the payment of copyright fees. This is not an abstract legal issue to me; it represents loss of income. It will allow the use of works ***which I have created*** to be used by others without rightful payment. Artists are dependent on copyright to protect their right to payment. Under current laws, any work is copyrighted upon its creation; this copyright protection is absolutely necessary to maintain an artist right to payment for his/her work.

In the current digital world, the stealing, altering or claiming work “orphaned” is extremely easy to do. Without the strong copyright protection currently in place, the ***theft of money I have rightfully earned*** will be not only extreme easy; it will also be quite legal. As I reach retirement age it is more important to me than ever that works I have created through a long career of hard work remain protected as a source of income. These works ***do not*** lose their value upon publication; they are my inventory for future sales.

Thank you for your concideration,

Sincerely,

James R Faecke