Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

Hi my name is Kati Hammond and I oppose the current considerations held in Congress to change U.S. Copyright as it now stands in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. As an artist and an American, I believe rights should be given to me as with all artists, musicians, illustrators, etc. and Americans who contribute to the culture of the United States of America.

Our country is not yet 300 years old and in many ways our culture is still being developed. Artists are a huge asset to a country's unique culture. You can recognize many countries by their rich developed cultures, such as Germany by their individual art and architecture as well as many other countries such as Japan, France and India. Each of these countries is highly distinguishable because of their art which is what makes their culture. Art is also history. The American flag was a piece of artwork in and of itself as well as the gift of the Statue of Liberty. We should not solely be known for our technological advances, but also for the artistic and cultural identity we are giving ourselves as Americans. In history, art was hugely valuable to the Egyptians as well as ancient tribes and cavemen to document their history and important events.

Let's not forget the efforts of President Roosevelt to protect cultural heritage during WWII and the efforts made by American Lieutenant George L. Stout and those affiliated with the MMFA such as James Rorimer and Rose Valland. Also, it is mentionable the efforts made by Maria Altmann to claim her rights to an original painting by artist Gustav Klimt that was wrongly confiscated from her by the Nazi's and wrongly refused to her by the Austrian Court. It is with these considerations as well as my passion to reserve individual American rights and the respect of American Artists that I strongly believe artists copyright should be reserved and respected in the current Copyright laws as they stand in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Artists deserve to be rightfully paid for the work that they give to the American culture and should thrive as a result of any work contributed to humanity as any other American who contributes to American society and

human existence. I strongly believe that anything below that standard is an injustice to the American people and our nation as a whole, as well as an abusive exploitation of Americans and our cultural contributions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kati Hammond