To members of Congress:

I have been a professional artist since the mid 1960's. Retaining copyright to my work has been, and continues to be very important to me. The images I make provide my livelihood. Without automatic ownership of those images, my income would be seriously affected.

When I "publish" my images on my website, for example, I see those as advertising the original product: the paintings. If others are given permission to use those images, or alter them for their own uses, I could lose a good portion of my income stream.

I work very hard, 7 days a week, to produce my work. I have no intention of giving that work away.

Please do not take any action on copyright law that would diminish my ownership of the work, and the reputation that I have built over many years.

Please be fair to me, and other visual artists who work hard, for not all that much remuneration. And let us keep the rights to our work.

Thank you.

Jay Zerbe