July 22, 2015

John Laws
838 West Grant Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Copyright Office,
I am a professional illustrator and make my living by creating original watercolor and graphite images for books and magazines. I was trained in scientific illustration at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This has been my primary occupation since 2001. I am the author and illustrator of the Laws guide to the Sierra Nevada, Sierra Birds, a Hikers Guide, The Laws guide to Drawing Birds, and the Laws guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling. Over the years of creating the illustrations for these books, I have amassed thousands of illustrations that I reuse in my own work and licence to new clients. It would be devastating to my career and livelihood if my work became publicly available or I lost the exclusive right to control how and where my art is used.
I regularly re use my images and relicence them. I maintain the rights to all of my work. My copyright is my livelihood. I now have a stock of images that I can and do regularly reuse. This has taken years of work and is only now paying off as the number of images I have created has grown. Now in minutes I can get illustrations to a client with little effort on my part instead of hours of work and research. The Next Great Copyright Act would devastate my business. Please maintain the strength and protection of the existing copyright laws.

Respectfully yours,

John Muir Laws