Kris Gullikson
Advantage Design
PO Box 1437
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Maria A. Pallante
Register of Copyrights and Director
U.S. Copyright Office

July 20, 2015

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I am writing to let you know I am NOT in support of changing the US Copyright Act. I am a graphic artist and have been making my living doing so for 35 years. Making our work open to general use by the public (on or offline) would devalue it and make our lively hood virtually non-existent.

I understand you are being told that our artist copyrights are our source of income. That is true. However, lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once our work has been published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the public. I respectfully disagree. For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. My copyrights are the products I license. I add that little symbol (©) to every piece of art I design before it leaves my office, with the express purpose of that protection from our U.S. courts.

It's important to my business that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. It sure sounds like that is going by the wayside. What a shame that would be.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. My work actually GAINS value upon publication, as does my reputation as a visual artist. Instead everything I create becomes part of my business inventory and portfolio which actually gains me business after the fact based on how successful it was for the client it was created for. SO, in the digital era, inventory is more valuable to us as artists than ever before.

I request the current copyright laws be IMPROVED and not turned into an Orphan Works.
Sincerely,

Kris Gullikson, Graphic Artist