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Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office,

I am am a visual artist who has been professionally making a living with my paintings since 2001. Some of my sales are from commissioned work and I also sell reproductions of my paintings. Recently I have been commissioned by the Cincinnati Parks board to create 32 paintings for a local carousel. These paintings are my original creation and if my copyrights are removed for the sake of a future potential users I would be giving two years of work to away for free to anyone who wanted to use my artwork for their gain.

In this digital age it is important to promote through the internet and on social media. It would negatively impact all visual artists if anything they posted could be taken an used free by any person or business who wanted to infringe on that artist's creative property. I spend anywhere from 10 to 200 hours to create a single painting. If the new copyright proposals become law there would be nothing to stop anyone from taking an image of my painting and altering it to use for their own monetary gains. I am not only thinking about myself but also the thousands of other painters, illustrators, and photographers that would suffer from our images being used without our permission. Keeping the rights to our images is a way to keep a level of professional integrity. There are several ways infringer can remove signatures to make a piece orphaned. Giving legal credibility to these actions would be devastating.

Thank you for the reading my comments. I know I am only one small echo of the letters being sent for this cause but I felt like my thoughts should be included on an issue so important to the world of visual arts. **Please do not let the new proposed US Copyright Act strip creative professionals of their livelihood.**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Queen