JAMES STEINBERG ILLUSTRATION
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Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing in response to your Notice of Inquiry regarding Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works. My name is James Steinberg and I have been a freelance illustator for 34 years. I graduated with a degree in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. I have created book jackets, CD covers, magazine illustrations, book illustrations, images for corporate brochures, annual reports, advertising campaigns, and postage stamps. I have supported a family and put one child through college, with another graduating next year. My work has been recognized by The Society of Illustrators, American Illustration, Print Magazine, Communication Arts and 3 X 3 magazine. I am represented by Gerald and Cullen Rapp, Inc.

I own the copyright to my existing works and people pay me to license the use of those works. Every year, a substantial portion of my income comes from the re-use of existing illustrations. I have over 500 images available for re-use. Clients contact me if they want to license an image online or in print and a fee is negotiated. With the advent of books on tape, publishers have paid me to re-use book jackets I did years ago. This income is extremely important to my own livelihood, as well as many others in this profession. In this digital age, our inventory of unique illustrations are more valuable than ever before. Unfortunately, they are also more available. It is easier than ever before for unscrupulous individuals to infringe our rights and steal our work.

I am asking that you please consider the impact that a new law would have on artists like myself. Very few of us are getting rich. Most of us struggle to make a decent living practicing our craft and depend on owning the copyrights to our work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Steinberg