Dear Congressmen,

I have been a professional visual artist for over 40 years. Part of this time I also shared my love of art by stimulating creativity in children in the classroom. I am fortunate to have earned a BS in Mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh, an AA in Fine Arts from the Nashville School of the Arts, and a Masters in Education from Tennessee State University. I have also enhanced my professional training with numerous fine arts workshops with other professionals. I also have presented painting workshops myself. Therefore I have both sides of my brain covered. As a professional artist I am a member of the Tennessee Watercolor Society, The Nashville Artist Guild, the Monthaven Art Society, the National Arts in Education Association and the Tennessee Arts in Education Association.

As a fine artist specializing in painting with watercolors and acrylics I have won awards including best of show, and been included in private and corporate collections. I cringe at the chance provided by the possible passage of this new legislation wherein my original and best works in others' collections could be altered and claimed as another's work without my knowledge. And while only God is totally original, most of my work is conceived and problems solved before I pick up the paintbrush. This preliminary work allows me to complete the painting with an enjoyable flow. Permitting someone else to simply copy my original work gives them a shortcut so to speak and all of my thoughts, years of training that enabled me to complete the work are negated. I feel as if someone is about to pick my brain.

As an artist, I gain recognition by the publication of my work and the acknowledgement of others in my field. My work still belongs to me and when a sale is made, reproduction rights are retained. Therefore publication should increase the value of my work.

Again, back to the left side of my brain. The finances of letting my work belong to others is not feasible. My work is mine alone and not available for others to steal my ideas and therefore my income. My work is my inventory and a portfolio of who I am as an artist. The current copyright law ensures that what I create will always be licensed to me alone and that my small business will remain intact.

Thank you for your attention to this most urgent matter.