July 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As an artist and watercolor teacher, I am very concerned about the proposed revised copyright law. I am firmly against the new law. I have been an artist for over 30 years, showing my work in many venues. I am a member of the New England Watercolor Society and the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, and the Watercolor Connection, based in Metrowest Boston.

The copyright law is important to artists such as myself. Our business and livelihood depend upon having sole ownership to our work. Our copyrights are the products we license. Infringing our work is like stealing our money. It is important that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.

My paintings and artwork do not lose its value when published, everything I create becomes part of my inventory. Today in the digital world, my work is more valuable. Not only do I own the right to my paintings, but also the cards and prints I make from the original image. The new copyright law would not protect me from others duplicating my own work.

I urge you to vote against the new copyright act.

Thanks you,

Susan R. Smith

Natick, MA