

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Intellectual property infringement
Date: Sunday, March 21, 2010 5:12:00 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

The copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I am a self employed artist. I earn my living solely by creating art work that is licensed for use on products. I pay for my health insurance, my Social Security, and any retirement savings on my own. Once I put my ideas on paper they then become a tangible piece of property belonging to me.

The Orphan Works amendment, "limiting remedies", will effectively create a no-fault license to steal. It is unfathomable that with the proposed legislation, the artist's work would become fair game for anyone who wants to use it simply because the owner's name is difficult to find.

I work hard to preserve my livelihood. To continuously be on the lookout for potential thievery is difficult enough, but to also have to pay my own legal fees - often against big giants with high unlimited funds - that is simply not an affordable option.

As for the proposed "registry" my question is, who will profit from that? It is difficult enough to find the time and money required to copyright my work, without having to spend countless hours cataloging and then paying to register it again with what seems to be a nonexistent system riddled with potential problems.

The only beneficiaries of this law will be the big businesses. As it exists now, these companies have to pay royalties or fees to the creator of the art they use. This legislation will make it incredibly easy for individuals as well as internet companies like Google to sell access to as many collections of "royalty-free" artwork as they can collect without the required identifying information or worse yet, the removed identifying information.

I ask you to please consider the harm this legislation would do to those of us who earn our living by creating original artwork. Please don't put us out of business. Help us protect our legal rights and please, think hard about the impact this bill will have on every American citizen.

Kind Regards,

Joyce Shelton

Joyce Shelton Studios, Inc.

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

www.joyceshelton.com