

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** intellectual property commentary  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how intellectual property infringement affects income for my business and for the group of illustrators I work with and for.

The small illustration agency I run licenses illustration and takes on original assignments for the illustrators. Over the years we have discovered a number of outright infringements and have brought suit when necessary against the corporations who misappropriated artwork without proper licensing. We did prevail in those cases, but the time, expense and stress of pursuing infringement is daunting, in some cases prohibitive, and keeps us from our full output of doing the creative work we have chosen to pursue.

Beyond that, losses are incurred yet cannot be calculated because of the undiscovered cases of infringement. The loss of income based on general industry evidence is considerable though. The artists who depend on equitable licensing fees to earn their living are impacted everyday by the disregard of infringers who will not be stopped because it is difficult for us to discover missuses, there are weak enforcements and it is difficult and costly to pursue legal redress.

Another area of very considerable concern in our field is the formerly proposed orphan's works bill that would reverse existing copyright laws and put the burden on creatives to defend rights already granted them. The Google book settlement is an example of an arrow through the heart of the creative community, since creators rights and property have been traded away by third party interests.

In general, infringement is a costly assault on the interests, incomes and very future of job security for illustrators and other creatives. I fervently encourage our government to enforce existing copyright law, make it easier and less costly for creators to defend their rights through legal channels, and create an atmosphere for our artists to earn a fair living through their works that enrich us all.

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