

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Intellectual Property - Artist Works
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 11:09:51 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel -

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

My name is Betty Laur and I am an artist, intending to make a living licensing my art to manufacturers for use on products. Without the current or even more stringent copyright laws and penalties for piracy, my livelihood will be impacted, since I will be relying on companies to respect my copyrights and pay me for use.

With the internet and digital nature of business today, it is easy for less-than-reputable companies to steal art and design, sometimes selling it as their stock art to reputable companies. To see art being used without permission is disheartening, and it is expensive to combat. Any changes in the law will make the problem that much more serious.

I urge you to take the creative business owners, who pay taxes and fight to make a living, into account when considering any change to the copyright laws and especially the designation of "Orphaned Works". Tougher penalties and regulations should be put in place if any changes are being made. While it would be great to believe that people work from a place of honesty and integrity, it is unfortunately not always the case. We should not encourage people to cut corners who will do so without any threat of legal or financial ramifications.

Sincerely,

Betty Laur
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
Fine Art and Art Licensing