

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: changes to copyright laws
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 9:22:52 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

As a longtime designer and illustrator who is currently in the process of creating another children's book, I am very concerned about, and would be directly impacted by any changes that would diminish the effectiveness of our copyright laws.

If I were a baker, the quantity of breads and cakes that I make every day would be my merchandise and I would be immediately paid by customers at the point of sale.

My livelihood, however, is derived from the images and visual ideas that I sell. They are my "product". Many years ago I paid tuition, studied and worked, and focused seven years of my life in pursuit of intensive (and expensive) art education which resulted in degrees in Graphic Design and Illustration. Now, it takes me almost a year, working almost ten hours a day, to create a single children's book, and my contractual payment will be in the form of five percent of royalties from sales, which means that a longer time period is the only way I can hope for anywhere near adequate compensation for my labors, a process that can take many years to achieve.

I, therefore, respectfully ask why changes to the existing law that are being requested, and that would only benefit third parties who haven't invested of themselves what I have, and that would take the hard-earned bread out of the mouths of people like me, should even be considered.

The so-called "orphaned works" legislation that has also been under consideration, is a flawed idea, as well. I was almost a victim of that concept, when a major publishing company took a cover design that I had created for a specific book, and some years later, without my permission, and without additional compensation, used it again on another book. It was only as a result a series of fortunate accidents that I learned of this infringement, and through the intervention of the courts, was ultimately paid for this unauthorized re-use of my work.

In closing, I must say that should changes in copyright legislation that reduce the time coverage, and not fully protect the intellectual property rights of artists, move forward, there will be no further incentive for people like me to create new images that enrich the lives and understanding of future generations of children and adults.

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