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April 30, 2019

The Honorable John Kennedy  
416, Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kennedy, Durbin, Tillis, and Hirono:

On behalf of graphic artists – illustrators, designers, animators, and others – we would like to thank you for introducing and co-sponsoring The Copyright Alternative in Small Claims Enforcement Act of 2019 (The CASE Act). This legislation addresses a crucial concern for all individual creators and small copyright holders, and we're grateful for your attention to it.

Currently, graphic artists see their work repeatedly infringed by those who use their works without permission or compensation, creating a loss of licensing income which can be devastating to individual creators and the small businesses they represent. The only course of action small copyright holders have is to take an infringer to federal court in a procedure that is complex, time-consuming, and costly. Furthermore, the legal costs of such an action often dwarf the potential recovery, making it difficult for small copyright holders to find legal counsel.

The small copyright claims tribunal proposed by The CASE Act would be an equitable and affordable option for graphic artists with small copyright infringement cases. It's a solution that is long overdue for individual creators and small copyright holders, for whom copyright has too often been a right without a remedy. And it's a necessary correction to a system in which infringers have been able to act with impunity.

We believe that The CASE Act's impact will go beyond establishing a fair and affordable process for copyright holders and copyright users. It will hearten creators who have long felt disenfranchised, increasing copyright registrations; it will put a spotlight onto the individual creators of copyrighted works, belying the public misbelief that copyright only serves large corporate interests; and it will encourage those who wish to use copyrighted works to engage and negotiate with copyright holders.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in getting the bill successfully enacted.

Sincerely,

Lara Kisielewska, National President

William Morse, Secretary  
Diane Barton, Treasurer  
Rebecca Blake, Advocacy Liaison

Todd LeMieux, Communications Chair  
Dawn Mitchell, At-Large Board Member  
Haydn Adams, Immediate Past President