July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

R.E. Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you in regards about this change in the Copyright Law. As a young artist studying illustration I believe it is in the best interest of all artists that this change does not go into affect. Hearing about how this new law would upset the current order of copyrighting I believe is rather absurd. The change would basically put a strain on how we make a living as artists. Most artists actually make money on the rights they sell than the work itself and by eliminating the current way of copyrighting through basically the government and transferring it to the private sector will be a time commitment and a strain on our careers. Not to mention the idea that our work once it goes online, which is how transferring work and getting known these days, means our artwork is up for grabs by infringers to copyright it themselves and pass it off to anyone to make more money for big companies. Currently, the minute you create a work of art, no matter what it is is ours, no matter what. Changing that for the "need of the public" is ridiculous. The public does not need our work for their expense. Our artwork is ours and under no circumstances should that change. The government and big businesses seeking to gain profit needs to back off. They do not need to meddle in what they do not understand. Still being as young as I am I understand a lot in what I see, hear, and witness and it always seems that art is expendable and underappreciated. Only to be gained by higher ups in power and big businesses. If you want art to belong to the public, then let the current copyright law stay or else before you know it there will be no great art produced, only mindless, profit-gaining hacks who know nothing about how to create real art that comes from the mind and emotion and holds our human truths. Thank you for your time and please, for all that is good keep the copyright law the way for every artist and every person.

Thank you,
Joe Johnson