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July 22, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I am an artist and illustrator working in the Kansas City area. I hold a BA in Mass Communications and worked very hard later in life to attend Otis College of Art & Design in order to follow my passion to create art and illustrate children's books.

As a freelance illustrator, the images I create is how I build my business. My copyrights ARE the products I license. Changing the copyright law as it stands, will make it easier for individuals and companies to infringe on my work—which is literally stealing my money and livelihood.

If the new copyright legislation is passed, it will make it impossible for an artist to determine how and by whom our work is used. Value of a work is NOT lost upon publication—it is still intrinsically the creator's.

Everything I create becomes a creative asset and business inventory—which has become even more valuable in this digital age.

It is my understanding that the potential new law will reverse the 'copyright exists upon creation' premise, and instead require artists to pay a fee to register every design they want to protect. It would also allow infringers to create and register derivative works, which would in turn make it even more difficult for artists to monetize their creations because they would not necessarily be able to guarantee their licensees exclusive use of a design.

Please understand that the Internet poses an increased risk for art without appropriate credit to be shared, making it imperative for the Copyright Office to continue to recognize the ownership of these works. Also, many artists are extremely prolific, creating thousands of images each year. It would be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming to force them to register every design created in order to protect it (including past, present and future works).

Kansas City has a thriving art scene, and I know I'm not alone in my grave concern regarding this issue. PLEASE do not make it more difficult for us artists to survive! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katrina Revenaugh