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

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for issuing the recent notice of inquiry on visual works. I could be classified as a creator, and work professionally as a graphic designer/illustrator/artist. I'd like to take a few moments to address the five questions posed.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?
The most significant challenge, if proposed legislation were enacted, would be to continue to earn money while paying to conform to the new regulations.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
The key enforcement challenge is that many creators, especially those at the beginning of their careers, cannot afford to enforce their copyright against large corporations without contingency fee lawyers. If the legislation progresses, enforcement would be even more difficult and costly.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
Under new legislation, the cost and time required to register all of an artist's work would be immense. I am a relatively young visual artist, being in the field less than ten years, but even I would have thousands of published and unpublished works that would need to be registered. The cost and time required to register all of my work would almost certainly bankrupt me.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?
In my graphic design work, I use many images from stock houses and have never had difficulty finding an appropriate image to use that can be properly licensed and used.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?
Under this new legislation, I am afraid that artists' work will be stolen from them and that corporations that do not represent these artists will be making all of the profits. The work of artists should be protected so that they can earn a living and continue to create visual work.

Thank you for your time,
Ken Baughman