Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence 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 and Copyright Office Staff:

I am writing in regards to the new proposals for visual works copyright reform, thank you very much for taking the time to receive and read comments about this matter.

I am a new emerging illustrator and visual storyteller, having recently graduated from college. I went to an art college and went into debt in order to do so. I have invested a significant amount of money and time to develop my skills in this craft. As do so many others in this field of work. It is almost always a lifelong commitment. This push for copyright change would make it increasingly difficult to sustain a livelihood in the visual arts, and I fear would be a huge impediment for the potential future artists that would have otherwise contributed to our cultural growth and heritage as a people. Something this proposal claims to be so valuable.

The current copyright laws allow us to protect and deny that our work be used by certain people and organizations for things that we feel cause harm to the image or financial state of our business. Our creations are our products, our inventory, our reputation, and keeping ownership of the rights to them is the foundation of our business. We decide who can use them or not, for what purposes, and for how long. The essentially revised Orphan Works Act, The Next Great Copyright Act, abolishes this. The claims that the work is too culturally valuable, but worthless to the creators once distributed online is hypocritical. The value of a work, in a case such as this, is and only should be determined by it's maker.

You do not walk into a gallery and take the work off the walls, claim you own it, and profit from it without paying for it. That is theft. The internet is essentially a global gallery. A work's value does not decrease simply because it is on display. The internet is now the biggest means to gain a following and grow a business in the visual arts. Having personal projects and work on the web is also now the main way to getting industry and in studio jobs. Taking away the copyrights is what will decrease the work's value. If an individual or organization truly wants to use another's work, then they should pay the price for it. It is a service you pay for, just like with any other job. Everyone deserves to be paid for their services. If it's on the web it's free to view, not free to use.

I would instead vouch that copyrights of visual works be further developed for the protection of the creator and creation(s). Furthermore, to create royalty distribution

systems for the visual arts like the ones already established for the music industry. Technology is vastly and quickly expanding, rather than overhauling copyrights, perhaps make efforts to develop a means by which to digitally ingrain and track an image. Have a database that can store, identify, and track works and have it where people can access the information, in say the metadata, and always be able to find the creator and origin of the image. Make it where no work can be “orphaned”.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and Best Regards,

Jessica Dycus