July 20, 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 and the Copyright Office Staff

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter over my concern of the possible new copyright law trying to go into effect. I am among other artists trying to reach out and prevent this from happening. The main reason for our concern is because our rights as Americans are being violated and ignored for a financial gain that does not profit creators or our country.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

I am asking for protection from hours and hours of trying to perfect our craft. In the art community there is a fictional 10, 000 hour mark where it is the time you have invested in grinding away day and night to become better to try and get work for money. Allowing others to simply take an image an individual has created and use it for profit without any repercussions is ridiculous. Many artists are always looking for work and many of them like to invest in creator owned projects, which in turn would make profit allowing them to pay taxes, mortgage, food...etc helping making this country go round. Taking away rights of the individual is going against our constitution. How would you like it if a corporate company took a picture of you and your family to be used as a marketing tactic to lure more clients but they profited all the while all you can do is sit there and watch someone bully you out of royalties.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Trying to sue infringers due to the high costs. Most of the time artists have to settle with just

getting their work taken down and knowing that no one else is profiting from their work.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Mainly it would be expense and time. Many artist have been creating for decades and to go back and try and register all the work would cost personal time. Time is something many artist hold close. We try to juggle our work time as best as we can 5-7 days a week all while trying to put in personal time with family. We manage our time as precisely as possible to make room for all the necessities of a day to day struggle.

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?

The current copyright law is in perfect standing with many artists. I was raised to know that if you didn't create something and used it for your own financial benefit then it was called stealing. With the new proposed copyright law it will make it incredibly difficult to keep someone from erasing the name, maybe making a small adjustment or changing the color and turn into something that they "created" and now the original creator has no ground to stand on as the sole producer.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

There is already many sites online that offer free, or for a fee, stock pictures for personal and business use. Also many sites build images for business to profit or to use as part of financial gain. These sites were designed by artists to create a market for companies that need this. In the end they understand that business is business and everyone needs to benefit from each to coexist.

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?

Trying to profit out of the created art. It will make it incredibly difficult to stop anyone from using something that someone has worked hard to create. Many countries actually have created organizations to protect royalties and for whatever reason in the U.S. artists are being cheated out of it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and i do hope it has raised more awareness in issues that many artists would face if the new copyright law went into effect.

Thank you,

Jesus Martinez