July 20, 2015

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kyla Phakhailathavong and I am a 22-year-old freelance Illustrator. I just received my Bachelors Degree in Illustration from Nossi College of Art. I am in the earliest stages of my career, that hasn't had sufficient time to bloom. I am writing to express my concern about the changing copyright laws. I don't have as much to tell you about my career, and myself but what I can tell you is why the changing of copyright law would reduce the amount of budding artist and creators.

Having been out of College for only two months means that I am just now submitting my artwork to different publications and companies in the hopes that my artwork catches their eye. That way I can get my name out there and build my reputation. Sadly, I have to admit that I have not been able to register my works due to lack of funds. This being cause I haven't received a steady flow of jobs. That stated if this change passes my work would be considered Orphan Works.

This can cost a more than what a fresh college graduate that is drowning in new student loan payments can afford when trying to also purchase art supplies and promotional tools. All of this will put budding artists under a lot of pressure and make it where they can't get themselves established in the industry. Meaning we would have to go out and find whatever job we could, be it in our field or not, just to be able to make our student loan payments.

I have seen first hand artists, be it illustrators or photographers, that already have to scrap by to make ends meat, buy their supplies, and get their name out there. Unfortunately I am one, I have been married for a year, starting my own family, and just moved to another state in the hope of helping my career blossom. Building your career as an artist takes time, every time you throw your work out there for others to see you are laying a foundation, similar to bricks on a house, bit by bit. Eventually you are standing in a solid career that is your home.

In the beginning a lot of artists have to rely on the knowledge that the moment they created something that it solely belongs to them. Of course this means with the sufficient proof of creation. This also means that artists view their work as a little piece of their soul. They create it with sweat and hard work. Telling them that they

have to accept that the public has right to that work because they are too lazy to search for them is unbelievable. That signature or watermark on a finished piece of work is proof that you made it; it is yours.

If it is known that passing these changes in the copyright law would create "challenges" for artist, be they new, a few years in, or twenty years in, why would you want to reduce the value of our work. What we went to college and got a degree for, spent hours or years working on, and put our sweat and tears into. This is our bread and butter, without it we will starve.

Respectfully,

Kyla Phakhailathavong