Keaton West
515-306-5814
Keatonmidwest@gmail.com

July 15, 2015

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 the Copyright Office Staff:

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments on this issue, I will try to keep it short. As an artist, owning the copyrights to my own work is essential to my future. I'm currently in college and accumulating thousands of dollars in debt to help prepare me for a career as an artist. In order to pay off this debt and make a living I will have to sell copyrights of my work to my clients. I'm am worried about the proposed "orphan works" changes to copyright law and ask that you deny them. If I understand correctly, the current law grants me copyrights to my wok from the moment I create it. Being required to register each sketch and idea I come up with to a private registry to obtain those rights will make me vulnerable to intellectual property theft. Under current law I can get attorney fees and statutory damages when my work is used or reproduced without my consent, however without these remedies it would be difficult financially to pursue legal action against infringers and allow them to exploit artists work without compensation. These proposed changes only benefit those who wish to infringe on artists' rights and profit at the expense of the artists.

Please consider how these changes will affect current and upcoming artists.
Thank you for your time,
Keaton West