July 22, 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)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a professional, award winning artist for over a decade who's work has appeared in many well known publications and retail stores across the US. I make a living from my artwork for me and my family. Copyright is at the core of how we as artists make our living. Our copyrights are our assets. Licensing my artwork is part of how I run my business and provides an invaluable income stream for me. It took me years to build up my style and develop my artwork into a marketable income stream. This hard work has paid off, but if the copyright law were to change, my entire career as an artist would be over and would cause me and my family great suffering.

I am extremely concerned by the proposed language that 'potential users' rights are equivalent to those of creators. This is simply not true. Any artwork I create is owned by me, and should not be given freely to the public for their use if they say that they "can't find the creator". 'Potential users' do not have the right to use my images, I do. If a 'potential user', individual or company, wants to further their business by using imagery, and can't find an image they can legally use, then they can do what individuals and companies have done for the decades before electronic file sharing - commission a new one, and keep artists working, so we can continue to make a living creating artwork for the world to enjoy.

As a licensed artist, I must keep control of where it appears and who uses it. I take great effort to protect my work. If the copyright laws were to change, the world would be a very dull and boring place, as no one would ever want to post their own creations for the world to see again.

It is hard enough to make a living as an artist these days without suffering further potential roadblocks of our potential income. This proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be dismissed immediately and artists rights should continue to be protected, as they should be.

Sincerely,
Sara Franklin