TeMika Grooms Jarrett
3048 Arabian Woods Drive
Lithonia, GA 30038

July 23, 2015

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

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Ms. Pallante,

My name is TeMika Grooms (Jarrett). I am a freelance illustrator and visual artist based out of Georgia. I have produced illustrations for my use and for other authors and publishers. I am writing because I want to protect the rights and royalties for visual artists.

I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital environment.

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

As a person who creates products that are largely for sale through the internet as books and images, I need to maintain this revenue stream to make a living for my family. The resale of my past images are a part of my sales and I believe I have a right the work that I have produced. Any attempt to replace the existing copyright laws with a system that would benefit internet companies would endanger my ability to make a living.

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

We are faced with a significant challenge of copyright enforcement because of the cost of legal fees in an infringement lawsuit and an Orphan Works bill that works against the creators of original work.

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

The proposal to reinforce registration would become another financial burden for artists. With the system that is proposed artists will be burdened with paying fees for registered images that will end up in for-profit companies. The expense to register current images is already great, but the idea of having to go back and register past works is not only ridiculous but also cost prohibitive. It could easily bankrupt artists or it will force them into a state of not being able to register their original work and forcing it under the Orphan Works Bill.

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?

In my work, I make use of fair use of photographs and other graphic works for reference only. I do not copy, reproduce and/or slightly modify them to claim them as my own.

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

Artists have already seen their foreign reprographic rights and royalties diverted away from them for at least 20 years. I fear this is exactly what will have with the proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress.

Thank you and please protect the rights of your creative citizens,

TeMika Grooms Jarrett