To Those That This Concerns

My name is William Barbieri and I'm an art student working towards a Graphic Design Associates Degree. I'm also a freelance online digital artist with the pen-name of Indiana Will or IndianaWillB. I'm writing to stress that for me and other similar artist that copyright law isn't an abstract legal issue. It's been said before, but I'll say it as well. Our copyrights are our assets! We either make our living or want to make our living licensing them. I have not yet been able to make any income or any profit on my art or photography as of yet, but doesn't that is my goal or that I don't want to. I'm still just a college student, but I still want to make a living in the visual arts and further develop my own unique style of photography and art as I have been doing for the greater majority of my life. I would love to be successful in the visual arts and I would love for others to as well, but I am terrified by the ideas and proposals that the current lobbyist have placed with these new proposed laws. I fear that they may put an end to the whole field of visual art and may result in me and many others waste both time and money on our current college art studies and at worse, may put many into a dangerous amount of debt due to more years of college classes trying to get a more “reasonable” degree.

I'll do my best to respond to the questions you've proposed and I'll be a direct and honest as I can be.

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

The most significant challenges I currently face as a photographer, amateur graphic designer, and budding digital artist is trying to get my name out there and trying to get my art recognized as something unique. It's tough for any one today to stand out in the sea of artist online, but it's not impossible. I have a rough time at it right now because I'm still in college and I'm still trying to get my start in this business. I still don't have a specific art style or medium that I want to work in as I'm still trying to decide between photography, illustration, digital art, or graphic design. I can't really sell my work if I'm still not a professional, but doesn't mean my current library of past works isn't wotth selling, I just lack the knowledge and understanding to do so at the moment.

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

I find it difficult at the moment to understand why any one would private corporations to handle any or all copy right laws terrifies me, and I don't understand why a government made by the people for the people who do something that would ultimately harm the well fare of the people. The enforcement we currently have isn't perfect, but the proposals made now would not improve upon them in any way. All they would do make artist fail as they compete against the giant corporations.

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

To reintroduce registration would be to inflict another financial burden for photographers and artist alike. Much like banks have done in the past, the small charges would add up once fees and other charges are introduced and they would only serve as financial gain for the corporations and as a big blow to the artist. Even I as an amateur photographer would suffer at this as I have a library of over 10,000 digital photos, a majority of which I have not yet published yet. If I were to be charged for every one of these, I wouldn't be able to afford the standard of living. No one who works freelance could afford to do so if this happened. If we

don't have the information or meta-data to register our vast collection of photos or other forms of art, then people may just take advantage of them with out giving credit and we just may lose our lively hood.

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?

So far I have been willing to freely publish my work and allow others to use. I do make use of fair use of photographs and other graphic artworks for reference in things other than my photography, such as my paintings, drawings, and sketches, but that is about it.

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

I'm just a starting college student, but I have been a part of the visual arts for a huge majority of my life. I have also kept an eye on issues with copyright issues with the digital media for a long time now. I've seen cases of stolen work and illegally used art work on products with out the artist's permission. The system proposed by congress is not going to help in any way. If anything, it will just encourage the shady behavior and only hinder the artist more than anything.

The best thing to do at this moment that will prevent this conflict of interest is to not support legislation that allows any financial gain from the creation of copy right registries or any notice of the use of registries. Organizations that have supported these legislation have failed artists entirely and shouldn't be allowed to use this legislation to profit off the artist even further.

I would like to thank you for reading my letter and I would ask you to please exclude the visual arts from these new proposed laws and provisions that Congress wrights into this new copyright act.

Thanks once again,

William Barbieri