Maria Pallante Register of Copyrights U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence 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 & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

July 21, 2015

Dear Ms. Pallante,

My Name is Talitha Shipman. I'm trained as a graphic designer and illustrator and I have an MFA in Illustration. I've been working as a freelance illustrator for over 6 years and have worked with magazines Like Family Circle and Children's book publishers like Little Brown and Random House. I've heard about the proposed changes to U.S. copyright law and I'm concerned, especially in regards to the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report, that these changes could rob myself and thousands of other artists of our ability to retain copyrights to earn a living.

Without strong copyright laws, I have no way of protecting the work I create from indivuals who would steal my art and use it for their own gain, especially on the internet. Many people mistakenly believe that if they find something online, they can use it however they want. My copyrighted work is just like a product that I license and it's very important to me to be able to retain the right to resell it.

Especially troubling is the concept outlined in this report that after a work is initially published, it could theoretically be used by anyone under the assumption that it has lost any value to the artist. This is completely untrue. Illustrators often license their work to multiple clients using various agreements. One illustration could be used in a magazine and also used as a greeting card. This has happened to me several times and my agent even has a stock section of her website where I and fellow artists can place images for resale.

It is also important for me to be able to decide how and by whom my work is used. If anyone can use my work in any fashion after it is initially published, I lose the ability to decide if I want my artwork used for a certain cause or initiative. To me, this goes beyond losing money, and infringes upon my basic rights to determine what my art is used for.

Without the very important protections U.S. copyright law provides, I along with many other artists would lose a great deal of income and control over our own artwork, negatively affecting our families, communities, and the national economy. The illustration industry is a tough one, and every little bit of income is vital to my family and I especially in a slow economy. Please consider strengthening copyright laws to protect the artwork we create every day.

Best Regards,

Talitha Shipman

Children's Book Illustrator

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