Stephanie Jones

Owner, Finch Creative
720 Kingston Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

July 21, 2015

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:

I am an artist, illustrator and designer and have operated my own business in these professions for over 7 years. I graduated from James Madison University in 2002 with a BBA in Marketing and a Minor in Art. I continued my art education at Tidewater Community College in areas of specific interest before launching my business, Finch Creative, in 2008.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. I rely on my files being my own personal property as they contain information considered trade secret. From a design standpoint, providing my files to clients without a fee would damage my income in several ways. By keeping my files private I protect my own proprietary working methods. Secondly, by charging a fee for my native files clients must either pay me for the value of the files or decide to allow me to make any further edits or changes for a time or project based fee. Without copyright protection my files could be used in any number of ways and all of them would negatively impact me financially.

From a licensing perspective (I'm currently building my portfolio to begin the licensing portion of my business), my copyrights will be very literally the products I license. Infringing our my work is no different than taking my well deserved money away. It's important to my businesses that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does not lose its value upon publication, it only increases in value by exposure to others. Everything you create becomes part of my business inventory

as art and design can be licensed over and over again over many years. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before, I thank you for reading my letter and urge you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Stephanie H. Jones

Owner, Finch Creative