July 15, 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)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

It is disappointing to receive information that my country's government is interested in removing my right to protect my own visual creations, as they are my intellectual property, or else to make a profit off of and create a struggle for me to keep my intellectual property protected. Upon hearing the disheartening news, I was without words, but I have since found a few…

I have spent years of study building my creative skill so that I may pursue my happiness, as the US Constitution states, as a visual creator just to have to a government that is supposed to be by the people for the people diminish my freedoms in yet another aspect. It seems our freedoms are being peeled away little by little and this petty attempt is a prime example.

Your new laws would basically allow the fruits of my study and labor to be stolen unless I pay, and even then they may still be stolen by some inane failure to contact me. This simply gives unethical marketers and corporations (of which the good ole U S of A has proven to be full of) loop holes to rape me of my property and take advantage of my skills.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see this is bad news for visual creators. It is an utterly pathetic attempt help strip away freedom. You should be ashamed of yourself if you vote to pass these ridiculous and absurd laws. Even that I have to write this letter to fend off such greedy non-sense is a sad representation of the state of our nation. And on top of it you want these ridiculous questions answered as if you don't already know the ethical answer this conflict. It is insulting! So while you read others' letters, begging in some nicety form that you've prescribed, to please not take away what you already know in your heart (provided it is working properly) to be in alignment for a hard working community of American citizens, namely Visual Creators, know that in the end YOU will have to live with whether or not you have chosen to abuse your power or live from a high standard of integrity. If you want a miserable life, then create misery. As for me I will continue to create beauty, and live my beautiful life knowing in my heart that each choice that comes across my path, I will do my best to make a conscious decision for the highest good.

If you are the least bit offended by the reading of my letter, then be assured that the offence your vote to put the new copyright laws into effect are an offence and a crime to the population of visual creators in general. I urge you to please show your highest integrity when you vote against the new copyright laws that would strip the visual arts community of their rights to protect our personal, intellectual property or force us to pay to keep our work protected.

May you appreciate the beauty of visual arts, and hold the integrity to protect the rights of those whose labors went into the creation of them.

Sincerely,
Susan West