July 20, 2015

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:

I am writing to you as a young and upcoming artist to inform you that current copyright protections are how I protect the work that makes my living. I need to be able to share my work on and offline, knowing that it will not be at risk of being taken and reused by individuals or corporations freely for them to make profit off of.

I need to know that my work is secure and belongs only to me, because the only way I can find work and grow my clientele is for people to see my work online. Posting my work on online media outlets is how I build a name for myself and display my skills so that I may be found and hired.

In addition to this, in my field of animation and illustration/comics I need to know that the work I put my heart and soul into writing and illustrating will not be picked up by another individual or corporation and ultimately used or sold without my consent. The new copyright law being proposed will in essence destroy my livelihood and any hope I have of making a living as an artist.

Copyright protections are the only things we have as artists that ensure our work is legally our own, and in turn currently means that people can't ultimately steal it right from under us, and/or use it in ways we never consented to.

I am not sure how familiar you or your office is with the current struggles and issues most artists face regularly, but it's currently already difficult for young artists to get started in today's business world, often having to fight being underpaid and scour contracts that are already trying to take advantage of our copyrights and labor services.

I ask you to please reconsider these changes and protect artists to preserve their livelihood and dignity. While creating art is our business and how we survive, it is also a very personal process which we go through. Seeing others take, misuse and profit from the craft we put our souls into, not only damages our ability to survive by taking away our income, but also turns the craft to we've dedicated our lives into a mockery.

Thank you,
Samantha Aburime