July 20, 2015

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I am an artist, recently finished with college and attempting to start my freelance illustration buisiness. I plan on doing so by selling commissions, prints and doing the convention racket. Once I publish my art online, it still potentially has thousands of dollars of worth to me in the future. Under current law I feel reasonably protected against thieves because I own the rights to whatever art I create. That right should not be taken away from us.

The biggest challenge to monetizing/licensing my work is keeping others from taking and using my art. I and other artists often add watermarks and metadata and it is little trouble for people to erase such things. I often see other people's art posted, with no reference to who the artist is. This is not the artists fault. The idea that this work would then be "orphaned" is completely rediculous. There is nothing that artists can do to prevent people from doing this. This means that there will be little protecting me and the artists of the future. I might as well give up now and go flip burgers. At least if someone tries to steal my burger I can prossecute.

The future that I have planned on to make my living revolves around the fact that the art I create is undeniably mine. The proposed orphaned laws will make protecting that right too big a burden.

If the Copyright Office sincerely wants to protect the rights of creatives, it should make illegal: removal of metadata, copyright information and watermarks. It should also make illegal mass digitalization of any work not clearly in public domain without written permission of the creator. This should all come with massive financial penalties.

Thank you for your time and thank you for listening.

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