To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Gabrielle Trotter. I am an up-in-coming artist who is on the way to college in the fall. I will be working to become a known Canadian based artist and illustrator. Since 2005 I have work long hours in order to improve my artistic skill that will allow me to produced and published my illustrations on a mass market and even open my own business. I will eventually become one of the many people who are members of the Illustrators Partnership of America and I plan on working to give long-overdue foreign royalties to artists.

I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital environment.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

As a freelance artist and student, I need to maintain revenue streams in order to make a living for myself and pay at least part of my college expences. The resale of my past images is part of how I do business. My collection of work is a valuable resource that produces income for me and my partner. Any attempt to replace our existing copyright laws with a system that would benefit internet companies would endanger my ability to support myself in any way. Certain companies have already begun digitizing peoples work without permission or financial compensation and ruining livlyhoods. Why would the government favor corporations like this instead of those of us who actually create new work?

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

The very proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress concern me. It is essentially a revised Orphan Works (OW) bill, but would be even worse. Orphan Works bills have been resoundingly opposed by artists since they first appeared a decade ago. A copyright law built on the foundation of orphan works law would allow internet companies to syphon off revenue from artists with the hopes of creating an even better revenue stream for themselves. There can be no bigger challenge for those of us who make our living creating new works than to have to compete with giant corporations that can get artwork free from artists and compete with us for our own markets.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

The proposal to reintroduce registration would become another financial burden for artists. No matter how little registries might charge in the beginning, like banks, they would soon begin to introduce charges and fees that would grow as they gain a greater and greater competitive advantage over freelance artists, myself included. Anyone who says this won't happen is not living in the real world. In the end, if the government succeeds in passing this legislation, the end result will be that us artists will find ourselves paying through the nose to maintain our images in somebody else's for profit registries. As for the images we can't afford to register, or those we can't find the time to register, or those we can't find decades old metadata to register will all fall into noncompliance and a lifetime of images created at great expense and effort will be free to be exploited by others.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

In my work I make fair use of photographs and other graphic artworks for reference but that is about all.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

The kind of system the Copyright Office has proposed to Congress, I myself do not have a lot of experiance with. Though many artists have already seen their foreign reprographics royalties diverted away from them

for at least 20 years. I fear this is exactly what is going to happen with the proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress.

To prevent this unjust conflict of interest, it is extremely important that no artists group who supports this legislation be allowed to receive any financial benefit from the creation of copyright registries or notice of use registries. These artists organizations have failed artists and should not be allowed to use this legislation to profit even further off the artists they were created to help.

I thank you for reading my letter and I ask you to recommend that visual art of all kinds be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thank-you Kindly,

Gabrielle