July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20558-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright office, Library Congress
Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the issues artists' face in the marketplace.

I am an aspiring professional artist and I have been drawing for most of my life. It is a craft I have a great love for and want to make my professional career. As of now I am working on a portfolio and getting my work more publicly known.

Any image I create is my property. It is mine to sell, display, etc. I feel that I should have the say in who can and cannot use my work as well as how my work is used. I would not want any of work to be used for ideas/organizations that I do not agree with or support. I would also be extremely adverse to someone monetizing my work for their own profit without my knowledge or consent. Any money made off of my work by another party without my consent is money that I could have earned. Stealing my work is the same as taking money out of my pocket.

The proposed language of that pertains to "potential users" rights are concerning to me. I feel they are far too close to the creator's rights and they should not be by any means. "Potential users" have no rights to any works I have created unless they can find a legally viable image, or they commission me to create one for them and keep the industry going. It does not matter if I have licensed an image once or not at all, that work belongs to me.

It is easier now than ever to steal someone else's work with the rise of the Internet. Artists rely on copyrights to protect out work and cement them as our assets to be licensed at our discretion. It is not an abstract legal issue. Copyright ensures that a creator maintains the rights to their property.

Sincerely,
David Albertson