July 18, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence 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 Maria Pallante,

I am writing in support of amateur artists like myself with experience in the graphic art field, and professional artists across America. With the coming of the digital age, a lot has happened to artists around the world.

It is very easy now to have your creative, intellectual property stolen, used for profit by unscrupulous others without regard to the artists themselves.

Like anything else on this planet, just because you can steal it, abuse it, and destroy it, doesn't mean we should!

Why in order to receive any compensation, are some creative people required to relinquish rights of their property in order to even have a job? Am I the only person who sees the inequality of the system?

Creativity is a gift, some have spent their entire lives to developing it, spend $1000's to become educated and have worked very hard to achieve minimal or great success.

Not every artist can afford to have their work copyrighted until they can find a viable income source from it.

As to the issue of a registry, who would even oversee it? Is this not just another way for corporations to take over again?

Can a person of age 13 with great talent even afford it? Can their parents working 2 minimum wage jobs afford to copyright and or register their child's art?

I work hard, I pay my taxes and the condition of our country is making me feel like the individual citizen no longer exists, let alone artists, writers, illustrators, photographers, etc.

What about autistic artists living in a group home, can they afford to copyright or register their work?

Why do we even have a copyright office, if you plan to change the entire reason it was even brought into existence? It is there to protect, plain and simple, the individual as well as corporate interests.

Lastly, please all parties concerned consider carefully in this decision, whom are you helping, whom are you working for, let your good conscious be your guide, before you determine the fate of our creativity as a whole.

Sincerely,
Denise A. Virgallito
Mother of an autistic artist with $25,000 in college debt. Think of her. Please.
Sidney, OH