July 19, 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)

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Danielle Sands. I am a freelance illustrator. I am relatively new to being a freelancer, but I have created art my whole life and it is an integral part of who I am. I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital environment.

As a freelance illustrator, my work produces income for me and my family via the resale of my past images. Any attempt or future attempts to replace our existing copyright laws with a system that would benefit companies would seriously endanger my ability to make a living.

The potential of this possible bill is very concerning for artists such as myself. A copyright law built on the same foundations as the Orphan Works Law would allow companies to use our hard earned work to benefit themselves.

To avoid being exploited we would have to reintroduce registration which would become another financial burden for artists. It is essentially asking us as artists to pay if we want to have the right to make a living and to not have our work used without consent.

Art is a very personal and significant part of who we are. We spend countless hours on our work. To have that work taken and used or altered without consent or payment is a terrible infringement of our rights.

I thank you for taking the time out of your day to read my letter and I ask you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Danielle Sands