July 20, 2015

To Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office

I am writing this quick comment to you because of the very troubling news I have heard about forthcoming copyright changes, namely regarding the lack of protection for the work of artists and their income. I myself an am artist, though not professionally, and it is very important to me that artists like myself have control over who can use their work and assurance that others cannot wrongfully benefit from the work we have done. What we make is ours, and it is up to us if we want others to use it.

No one should be able to claim a work as their own if we did not give them permission to do so, and we should not have to pay for a right like this when we have already had it for years. Making the work gives me the right to use it; it doesn't give anyone else that right. Even if a work was made in the past, it is still a part of our inventory and able to be used for needed income.

Without the fundamental protection of the copyright laws we have been used to for years, trying to make and sell art hardly seems worth it when anyone else can take that art for their own purposes without supporting us.

I know this isn't a very eloquent or long message, but this issue is still important to me and thousands of others.

Erin McKay

Digital art student and artist