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Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office

101Independence 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 Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes to copyright laws that we hinder and harm my already struggling business as an artist. I have been creating and selling my work online for the last 10 years. Being an artist is an amazing gift but a difficult journey.

The challenge I face as an artist is being able to get my work in front of the clients that will purchase it and help me to continue to support my business and creative skills. Currently the internet allows me to create, share and distribute my work in many different forms from ideas, sketches to final product. I am able to share this process because I know that my work is protected by the current copyright laws and that by sharing I am not going to hurt my business but actually be able to entice more clients to my skill and products. People buy from people they like or respect and that is why it is so important to be able to share.

If I was forced to register every step of every project I created then I wouldn't be able to share my creative work with the world. The creative process is a very precious thing that each artist does differently but in a world full of people who want to learn about who they are purchases from these steps allow them to see the process, appreciate the work and be willing to pay the value of the piece. I feel that hindering the ability to share the process by requiring each step to be registered would greatly jeopardize my business and the value of my work. In fact I would go as far as to say it would ruin my business. I would not be able to put as much work out for the public and it would adversely affect my livelihood. Besides being a painter I am a photographer and part of my livelihood is selling my photographs as a digital download. At this current time I am able to reach many markets because I do not have to be selective in the photographs I take. If I had to register every photo in order to keep my rights I would lose a great deal of time and money by limiting the amount of photographs I post for sale.

I am busy creating an artistic future for my children and have started to share their creativity with the world. As a parent who encourages their child to be self-sufficient, confident and a productive member of society, this proposed copyright changes would ruin that. I would not be able to safely share their works (which are amazing) for fear of them losing the rights to their own creations. I also would not be able to afford registering their works. As a parent, I don't want to have to explain that something they created with their own two hands is not really theirs unless they got through the process of telling someone it's really theirs. How can we even think of creating a situation that takes away our basic creative rights as artists?

I know right now that I have every right to all the images I create and that gives me the peace of mind to share them with the world. It would be a huge burden to have to register every item I create. I would hurt my creative process and it would harm my livelihood. Being an artist is a gift we need to share with the world. We already face so many challenges that others don't. The path of an artist is bumpy, scary, long and emotional. It is a journey that the brave take when we put tiny pieces of themselves out in the world for everyone to see. Please keep that in mind when you decide to change how much more work we would have to do to share our creations. I am strongly against the proposed changes and hope with all my heart that you reconsider ruining the career of so many artists.

Sincerely

Heather Saulsbury