July 18, 2015

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)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am an illustrator and graphic designer who is currently trying to grow my freelance business. The changes proposed by Docket 2015-01 will hurt my business and leave me, as the artist, undefended, while lining the pockets of copyright infringers and large businesses. This proposal is based on less than 215 letters submitted to the copyright office and NONE are by practicing artists.

The artist receives royalties from works he or she creates. We invest money and an incredible amount of time to become knowledgeable about and make a living in our trade, and the royalty payments help sustain us and our families. We should not be compelled to turn over our assets to competitors any more than Ford Motor Company should have to relinquish theirs designs to Chevrolet. This proposal harms the individual artist while benefitting large corporations such as Google, who already have tons of money and can afford to hire an artist in the first place.

If a company needs intellectual property for their businesses, they either must produce it themselves or pay a person who has devoted their livelihood to do so. Anything else is theft.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wilson

Attached: My answers to "Notice of Inquiry on Visual Works."

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

The most significant challenges concerning monetizing visual arts is combating piracy, and

typically this threat often comes from companies that one would think would know better. I have seen artists whose works are published in paper and whose illustrations are widely shared on the internet (with their name on them, mind) stolen and used by apparel companies that sell through large corporations such as Target, all without the artist's permission, and all without the artist receiving a cent. Docket 2015-01 would essentially leave the artist I mentioned up the proverbial creek with no paddle. What is to keep the corporation from saying they looked for the artist but couldn't find out who it was? Sure, her work is plastered all over the place, but people can take names off of things. And anyway, what lawyer would take the artist's case? Any settlement likely wouldn't be with a lawyer's time. With Docket 2015-01, the artist loses.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

As an artist, I like it when people share my work on social media, providing they keep my name and website info on the image. Shares mean more potential views for my work, my web site, and views means more potential clients. Sadly, in this digital age, just about anyone can save an image, take off the artist's name and copyright info, and post it to their own page. A person can add metadata to the image, but many websites remove the artist's metadata and replace it with their own so they can get a higher search engine ranking. I can make my website so that no one can save an image by right-click, but anyone viewing the page can still take a screen capture. It's so easy to steal someone's work as it is; this docket simply makes it easier for others to steal an artist's work and leaves the artist with no recourse.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

For one thing, it can be cost-prohibitive for a lifetime registration. For another, many people aren't even aware that there IS a lifetime registration.

Also, if you ask ten different people how to get your work copyrighted, you will get ten different answers. Perhaps you should spend your time and money creating a "Copyrighting for Dummies" to clarify things in plain English, rather than just ensuring anarchy by enacting this docket.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

Any business I worked for as a full-time graphic artist was always very strict about using only stock images from sites that they had a current account with. As a freelance artist, I make it myself, or I pay for what I want to use, or I do without.

Come to think of it, the only difficulty that comes to mind is getting the public to understand that just because you have a stock photo of a dog on your business card does not mean you can use that same photo in your newspaper ad. Once again, "Copyrighting for Dummies" would

come in handy.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

As I am new to freelancing and publishing my works, I have no comment at this time.