TO:

Catherine Rowland

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FROM:

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1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations? As a freelance, illustrator I am aware that companies and publishers have been creating agreements that strip more and more ownership from the artist and makes it more difficult to make a profit from being an artist. Stock companies such as Getty, Google or Microsoft and now Adobe have also made it more difficult for artists to compete with stock images. If I post my images online, they are susceptible to theft, but if I don't I am not competing in a twenty-first century market.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators? Most independent artists do not have the time or resources to police abuses of their images. When they do discover abuses, they often do not have the time or monetary resources to sue for damages or losses. Images can be shared via internet faster than a virus.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators? Registering every image I create is unrealistic and places a huge burden on the creator that he/she has neither the time nor the resources to accomplish. This shifts the burden of ownership to the artist instead of assuming they have rights as creators. I could not register every illustration I create and would then be susceptible to abuses.

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? Right now publishers/clients can

get so much free or cheap, original art is rarely paid for. It simply is not difficult to hire and artist. People simply don't feel they should pay for it these days.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act? Many artists make a living on creating original imagery. Passing this law will make it even more difficult, possibly impossible for them to maintain a livelihood.

I urge you not to strip artists of the right to make a living doing what they were trained to do.