July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington, DC 20559-600

Dear Ms. Pallante,

I really appreciate the chance to voice opinions about the recent artist copyright issue, simply because it may affect the entirety of my future and many of the futures of other artists. Many of the letters you may receive are from older, working, and well-known artists and illustrators. However, there are others too that wish and NEED protection from the law to live.

Currently, I am in high school. I am a senior this year- and afterward, I am going into art as a major in college. I recently discovered the new law that may be written. For the past three to four years of my life, I have been making art and showing it to the world, for fun and for my own happiness as well as getting ground for my future. If this law is written in any way other than to protect all artists and their creations, my works will be used without my permission and my future will become much bleaker.

There are a multitude of challenges when it comes to monetizing and licensing digital artworks. Many people make a living off of doing these things. And many more people take advantage of these artists- and find loopholes in copyright to get to artwork for cheaper than the artist needs or have already paid for in supplies. Publishers will force artists to sign over rights to their works by denying them assignments and jobs otherwise. Fees paid for getting into an infringement lawsuit as well as the orphan works laws being thought up are the largest threats to artists. The orphan works laws will rip art from many- even those who do NOT do it for money but wish to show it (rather than allow others the use of it). Registration challenges are incredibly simple: money, time, information, amount and ability. Registration can ruin an artist, and perhaps needs to be gotten rid of altogether. There is a certain freedom when it comes to the current copyright law that also has a sense of dignity. No true, honest artist will ever use non-public-usage available art to copy or create. References are there, inspiration is there- but everything is made by the hands and minds of the artist. These laws are working as they were always meant to work, so- why fix what isn't broken? As for any other issues… well, I am no expert on any legal lingo or ways of going about things. But I do know that there is no place for already-licensed visual artists to register. There is nowhere that art like this can be compiled and used.

If these new copyright proposals become law, that freedom I mentioned prior will be gone. Young artists like myself will never have a chance to get off the ground and get into a career because our art will have

already been stolen out from under us, without our consent. Supporters of the law say that creators are too hard to track down, and that what we create is too culturally important for our own usage! This downplays the ability to make a living off of original work. Companies and proponents like this simply want to use art without paying for it, which is cheap and underhanded. Please consider this; please consider the lives and livelihoods that could be ruined at the expense of big-name companies and cheap, awful, underhanded ways. For now, only artists will suffer- but this may affect how the entire world works in the long run.

Sincerely,

Ms. Roselyn J. Rumler