July 23, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office,

I am a private citizen witnessing the wholesale destruction of emerging and working class artists in this country. The very artists who, over time, might create the great works of art that would live on forever. Or shoot the great photographs that would inspire others to see our world and our lives in ways we never imagined.

Photographers, graphic artists, and illustrators are leaving once successful careers, in large part, because our existing copyright laws have failed to protect them from Internet piracy. Our current laws fail to provide a safety net for working artists whose work can be easily copied and distributed on the internet without their permission.

Section 512 of the DMCA and the take down notification provision is terminally flawed. It denies every copyright holder the ability to have their work permanently removed from infringing websites. I do not believe that the legislators who wrote the law ever intended Section 512 to enable criminals to avoid prosecution, but it does and everyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of online piracy knows it.

Last year alone, over 345 million take down notices were filed with little or no impact on the amount of infringing content readily available on the Internet. In essence, visual artists, and all copyright holders for that matter, are defenseless in their ability to protect their work from online criminal enterprise.

Before it is too late and even more creatives are forced to abandon their careers, I respectfully ask the Copyright Office to make it one of their legislative priorities to ask Congress to make revisions that would add a *stay down* provision to Section 512. A *take down and stay down* provision that requires website owners and operators to be legally responsible for permanently blocking all infringing content listed in *take down and stay down* notifications from their website(s).

Respectfully,

William Buckley Jr.
FarePlay, Inc.