July 21, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, 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

This morning I became aware of intended changes to current copyright law as it pertains to artists. As a photographer and small business owner, I would like to strongly register my opposition to the proposed changes which clearly serve to benefit current and future giant image banks as opposed to the artists who through many, many hours of education and practice hone their skills to create unique, vital creative works.

Here are my responses to your questions:

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

-Most companies still seem to believe that photographers are able to live on recognition alone. If I had $1,000 for each time I've been asked to provide work in return for the "exposure" it would provide me, I'd be doing quite well. Individual artists lack status and legal protections when it comes to being paid for their work.

-Obtaining compensation for work stolen (Target tee shirts are a recent case) by large national and international companies. Legally, they are well insulated and simply ignore requests for compensation. Most artists are not in a financial position to challenge them.

-Successfully competing with giant image banks that practically give away the work of artists they pay next to nothing for their work.

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

-Regularly locating infringements within the vast world of the internet.

-The time and effort required to file sometimes dozens of take down notices that may or may not be acknowledged by the infringer.

-Funding to pursue legal action when needed.

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

Time and Money. I am one person. In order to create and sell my work, this is some of what I do: imagine the art, create the art, edit & modify the art (this sometimes takes months of work to perfect - or I go back to the drawing board and create again), I prepare the art for sale, I am customer relations, the printer, quality control, the banker, the packing and shipping departments, customer service. In addition, I am the tech, marketing, advertising and social media departments of my business as well. The necessary time and finances required for the copyright registration for each image (numbering in the 1,000's) is onerous in the extreme.

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?

I don't understand this question.

According to an article written last year by Rohit Arora, "…never before in U.S. history have women been so successful in launching and growing their own companies." The Guardian Small Business Research Institute projects "women-owned businesses will generate 5 million new jobs by the year 2018." The second annual Women in Business Report found that "average earnings of companies owned by females increased an astounding 54% in a year-to-year comparison" and that according to the

research, “average earnings for women-owned firms shot up to $54,114 in 2013, from $35,135 in 2012.”

Many of these women-owned businesses are creative in nature. The proposed changes to current copyright protections threaten the creative property rights of millions of artists and very possibly, the continued growth of these and other small businesses.

Sincerely,

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