To the U.S. Copyright Office regarding the Notice of Inquiry, 7/21/2015

My name is Carissa Cornelius, and I have been a part-time professional artist for a little over a year. I have a small Etsy shop under the name YetiParade, which is the name I normally use for my artwork. I went to Southern Oregon University for Studio Art and an emphasis on Drawing/Painting and graduated March 2014. I am an illustrator and painter, and I work with digital mediums as well as traditional such as acrylic, watercolor and gouache. My business is picking up steam, but I regrettably am not making enough to get by on my artwork alone, so consequently I have an additional "day job" which I work in order to make ends meet and ensure that bills get paid. I plan for this to be temporary: my goal is to eventually transition into a full-time professional artist so that I make a living solely of my art. I also am in the process of getting my artwork into various local stores throughout the Austin, TX area.

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to the Copyright laws. Like many artists, copyright law is essential for our businesses and way of life. Without this protection, our means of earning a living would undoubtedly suffer since we would be unable to ensure that our work was indeed our own and not available for use without permission from the artist. If a person or a company uses our copyright images or artwork without payment or permission, they are essentially stealing money from the person that created it. It is vital that we as artist retain the right to decide who can and cannot use our original creative works. Art is the livelihood of artists, and they need that income in order to live. I can't imagine any other career field where it would be deemed acceptable or even legal to not pay someone for their work.

I would like to make state that my artwork certainly does not lose value after publication. Rather, every artwork that I create is an addition to my business inventory, which is incredibly valuable and important to me, especially as we become more of a digital society. Since our artwork is how we make a some, if not all, of our income, it is essential for artists that they have copyright laws that work with them rather than against them. If the new copyright laws are passed, it would make it easier for businesses and corporations at the expense of the "little guy", and we certainly don't need any more of those kinds of laws.

Thank you for giving artists an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about this matter directly affects us to such a large degree.

Sincerely,

Carissa Cornelius