Aziza Johnson Freelance/ Web Comic Artist
Black Chick Productions
Oakland Park, FL 33309

July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. 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:

My name is Aziza Johnson. I am a Web Comic and a Freelance Artist from Florida. I have been producing digital art for local and national clientele since 2011. I am writing you, because I am very deeply concerned about the problems my visual artist colleagues and I face in the new digital environment.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing

photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

The significant challenges that my fellow freelance artists and I face is a major loss of income to support our households. We need to be able to resell our images so that we can contribute our work to society while still being able to sustain our families. To change the copyright laws in this manner would severely disrupt our means to an end. I am afraid that this will give companies even more liberty to "legally" steal right from our pockets by using and profiting from the images that my colleagues and I worked hard on. Our government, which is for the people, by the people, shouldn't be supporting companies that are stealing the artists 'work instead of producing their own work.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers,

graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Enforcing this revised bill would make it impossible for me and my colleagues to make a reasonable living or any living at all for that matter, because we would have to compete with companies who already have money. These companies, most likely, would have taken and used the images we created. There was already CLEAR OPPOSITION to the Orphan Works bill in the past, and upon reviewing this new proposal, it's just a newer, bigger, terrible version. Again, I don't understand why our government would want to legalize stealing because this is exactly what this bill is about.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers,

graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

I cannot see this as a practical system that supports the "starving artist". My family is already living on a tight budget as is and this proposal will force me to either quit altogether or go into debt in order to get every piece of work registered, whether it's finished or not. I foresee that registries will seize opportunities to make more money, start charging hidden fees, and bump up interest rates which will compound and further exploit me and my colleagues' art work and our value as artists. I do not see how every artist could successfully register all of their work without some pieces "slipping through the cracks" for anyone, including opportunistic companies who will take full advantage of this loophole.

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 make my graphic artwork available for fair use for references only.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding

photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

My concern is that this issue is not going to stop with Visual Art. I have family who are artists in their own right and some of them are musicians and songwriters. I am concerned that the songwriters in my family may be the next targets if passing this bill becomes the precedent. I am not selfish in any way. I believe in our capitalist society and that everyone should profit from our

own hard work which should include paying other artists for the use of their own hard work. I will not; however, support any governing bodies or institutions that do not protect the citizens in this country and their right to freely express themselves through art without exploitation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope that you will respect and protect the rights of the American People who are artists with families to support. Please exclude Visual Art from any Orphan Works revisions that Congress writes into the new Copyright Act now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Aziza Johnson