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 (80fr23054)

Dear Ms. Pallante,

Hi, I'm writing you as a professional illustrator recently entering the field! I would like you to know that it is already hard enough for me as a beginning illustrator to get my career off the ground- dealing with others stealing my work without paying me is *already* an issue that I have. They do this because I am a good artist, but I am not well-known enough in my field, so it is less likely that my work will be recognized as stolen. They know that I do not have the resources yet to hire a lawyer to make them stop. It puts me in a tough position, and I basically have to do with them stealing from me until I can find the resources later in my career to put an end to it.

Destroying my right to my work only makes this situation that much harder, as I would not have much legal ground to stand on, leaving room for even more people to exploit me.. There are thousands of students graduating with illustration, photography, and graphic design degrees every year- I ask that you don't prune away our chances of starting a career at all.

Retaining my copyright is imperative to starting and maintaining a career as a visual artist. If you take that away from me, you are taking away my lifeblood. You are stunting so many young graduates and students. Please allow us to retain our copyrights as artists- we work hard for our craft and we do not want to see it trodden on.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caitlyn Kurilich, Illustrator & Visual Designer.