Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 25509-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Digital Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms Pallante:

My name is Andrea Munguia, otherwise known as N S Howell, and I'm a Graphic and Web Design student from San Diego California staring off in the freelancing business. And I'm here to answer your questions.

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

As a freelance Graphic Designer and Web Designer, I need to maintain rights over typefaces and illustrations created for clients in order to keep myself afloat. Though designing websites is a good source of revenue, keeping the rights to sell my typefaces and illustrations helps keep ends meet, and attract more clients for freelance Graphic and Web Design work. Losing the copyright to my work would be detrimental to my well-being and the well-being of my family. With the United States economy still attempting to return to its former robust glory, why would you shoot an entire field of work in the foot?

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

The entire proposal Congress has pitched is a slap to the face of the artist community. There is no bigger challenge than the proposal at its core: the loss of rights to distribute and charge for your work in ways that suit your needs. Web design and graphic design are some of the hottest commodities of the digital age, and stripping away the rights of designers is stripping away resources for local businesses in each city. Local artists and designers are a great commodity for company branding and advertising. Companies like Gillette, Smirnoff, and Prada -- the entire fashion world, even the New York City Lottery -- would lose the very famous freelance designers which create their look. The famous Nike "Swish" didn't fall into the laps of the corporation like a sign from God. San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Washington DC: these cities have an image that didn't form by accident. Members of Congress have an image created to wow voters every time elections come around. These images were created by photographers and designing professionals you're about to put out of a job. Try and sell yourself to others without an image people can consume.

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

Registration would be another financial burden on the lives of these freelance artists. Even if the fee starts off small it would be easy to keep raising prices as the law gains momentum. Keeping up everyday life plus this fee on every piece of art created for work would become impossible, and thus I and millions of other artists like myself would be run out of work. Without autonomy over our artwork, you'd lose artists everywhere, and everything we bring to the table.

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 personally follow the rules of fair use. Or make everything by hand. Or collaborate. It's not difficult to earn a living with the current system in place.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

This kind of policy strips away something already entrenched in the 21st century: communication through imagery. We see arrays of commercials online and on our televisions -- videos conceptualized and brought to fruition by Photographers, Graphic Artists, Illustrators, and Video Editors. Our magazines are laid out by professional designers, our television shows are brought to life with the help of costume designers, fashion designers, and musicians, the websites and programs we use to communicate with others are made user friendly by web designers like me.

By taking away copyright protections from artists, you're destroying a very crucial piece of the global economy. Or are we forgetting some of the most prestigious designers are freelancers?

I'm extremely grateful for the time you've spent reading my letter. Thank you for your time.

Andrea Munguia