Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office

Dear Ms. Rowland,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed "Next Great Copyright Act." I am asking that you consider the effect this proposed law will have on visual artists whose very livelihood depends on copyright law.

I have dreamed of living off my art since I was young, and have recently begun pursuing that goal. The 1976 Copyright Act makes it possible for my dream to come true. As I step into this great new career, I am met with many difficulties, one of which is protecting my work. It is very important to me that others use my art honestly, so I may earn a fair wage for my work, and for those who have purchased my art to use it to add beauty to their homes, not for their own profit. I do not want my art to be illicitly monetized by those who would ignore the copyright that is in place the "moment it is created and fixed in a tangible form."

Though I am not yet a professional artist, I want to address some of the subjects of inquiry.

-I think the most significant enforcement challenge is discovering that a work has been infringed in the first place, and then contacting the infringer in an effective way.

-From what I know, the biggest registration challenges are time and money. The paperwork is complex, and to keep completely up to date on registering their work, most artists would have to submit registrations daily.

-I understand that it is very simple for someone to give my work the appearance of being orphaned. If orphaned works are made nearly synonymous with open source, artists lose.

If the orphan works allowance in the proposed "Next Great Copyright Act" goes through, it could stop my career before it begins.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Carey Bowden