FROM THE DESK OF

ALEXANDRA BOND

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Karen Temple Claggett
Associate Register of Copyrights
Director of Policy and International Affairs
US Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Re: "The Next Great Copyright Act" and "2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report"

I am a professional illustrator. I launched my commercial illustration business as a sole-proprietorship last year after completing my Masters of Fine Arts program at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA. I offer my design service and images for a wide number of fields including entertainment media (such as book covers, table-top games, computer games, comics, film, promotional art, etc.), directly for independent clients, and (similar to a fine artist) publish my own artwork - which I merchandise or sell copies of directly to art lovers. Regardless of who I am working with, I license my artwork for specific uses, media, and periods of time. Very rarely will I sell the right to alter my work.

My entire livelihood depends on controlling the rights to copy and manipulate my work. My copyrights are the products I license. Infringing on the rights to my work is stealing from my business. And it's critical for the health of my business that I remain able to determine, voluntarily, how and by whom my products are used. I am my own legal team and it is on me alone to defend my rights to my work. I depend on you and Copyright Law to protect my business.

My work does not lose value upon publication. When I share my work online I am advertising both the rights to use specific images and my service to design similar images. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. And in this digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. The right to my work, once published, increases in value over time.

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"The Next Great Copyright Act" would void my Constitutional right to the exclusive control of my work. Specifically, mass digitization of my intellectual property is a direct threat to my business. Extended collective licensing, which would replace voluntary business agreements between me and my clients, would put me out of business. The Act would "privilege" the public's so-called "right" to use my work, pressure me to register every iteration of my work with commercial registries, and "orphan" unregistered work - my "orphans" would then be available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers. This Act can also be exploited by thieves simply by cropping my name and contact information from my images, claiming that I was unable to be contacted, and then copyrighting these "derivative works" in their own names.

Whether or not you are an artist, this should matter to you. If you appreciate art in the world, you need artists to make it, and this legislation will destroy our ability to support our businesses with our own work. Many artists, even famous ones you love, will have to stop making art. Everyone loses. I urge the Copyright Office and Congress to give "The Next Great Copyright Act" the most serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Alexandra Bond
Illustrator & Concept Artist