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:

I wish to thank you in advance for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you on this important matter. Copyright protection is a very important issue that I believe should be known to not just artists and creators, but the general public at large. The information you provide about US Copyright Law is very beneficial to any and all parties that wish to partake in the creative field. It is for this very reason that I am writing to you today regarding the future of Copyright Law and the potential threat the upcoming Orphan Works Act possess to future creators.

According to a brief summary of the law, the Act will allow the free use of any and all visual works distributed on the internet that has not been registered by the Copyright Office, effectively making the work "Public Domain". While this sounds good on paper, this is very detrimental to artists who are trying to make a living on selling visual artwork on the internet. For instance, if someone is producing a web-comic, unless the artist has obtained copyright for the work (which they may not be able to afford), the artist cannot make a decent living through their creative hobby.

In addition, this act could hurt potential creators trying to get into their field of choice and could in turn cause the slow death of creative expression on the internet. Should this act come to pass, the creative landscape will only belong to the more powerful creators, thus giving the lesser known creators no opportunity to make a name for themselves. In essence, this creates an uneven playing field.

Therefore, I strongly suggest that you look into this mater as this act will change the face of US Copyright Law and could potentially damage the relationship creators have with copyright. Once again, thank you for your time and God Bless.

Sincerely,
Andre Andrews, a Concerned Citizen