July 19th, 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)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Clifford Mason Knight; I am a freelance artist, writer, and content creator from Moselle, Mississippi. I am sending this letter in response to the potential issues facing artist in the modern digital era and concerns regarding potential changes to copyright and their effects on artists and their works.

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

   Artist of various talents including myself relay heavily on the collected sum of all our past and current artworks in order to gain any revenue. Not only are these works a critical resource in order to gain income but they also serve as an identity for the artist. With the advent of the internet many digitally based companies have disregarded copyright laws by illegally stealing artworks and profiting off the said works of others without proper contribution to said creators there for harming an artist source of income and damaging their image as a whole. The government is responsible for enforcing the laws and protecting people and our property, especially our intellectual property. What these companies are doing is no different from any other criminal in the act of theft.

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

   The new proposals made by the Copyright Office to Congress are very concerning for me and other artist as they are a major threat to all content creators. These bills are very essentially in the same vain as the Orphan Works bill which are greatly opposed by content creators and artist alike. This would give more companies means of stealing content from artist in the pursuit of easy profits and leaving many content creators left to deal with giant corporations on their own. There could be no greater challenge or threat to content creators then having to wage a one man battle against a corporation who has the permission to steal and take as they please from our very own government.

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

With the state of the economy on top of the current issue of digital companies already effecting artist's income by stealing work, many artist are already finically burden as it is. Reintroducing registration and the charges that come with it will only be another burden to an artist who is already struggling to meet ends with daily living expenses. Like all things pricing for such services will change over time as new fees will be slowly added in making what could have been a low price into a greater burden for the creators. This only adds to the challenges we as artist would have to face with the illegal activities of a finically backed corporation and the fines placed upon us as content creators who in many cases might not be able to pay such fees or able to afford the high price of legal action.

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?*

   Many artists including myself make fair use of photographs and graphic works for reference or influences in our own creations however we do not steal or use manipulate works of others for profit. We rely on our own creativity and skills to create our original content.

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

   Companies and other self-proclaimed artist groups backing such legislation as the one being proposed have been the heart of many issues using these means to gain profit for themselves while no benefits are afforded to the creators themselves. This is an act of theft and betrayal to all content creators. No artist in their sound mind wants to produce content only for someone else to make finical gain on it while they themselves can barely afford to get by in day to day life.

   I would like to thank you for reading my letter and I highly recommend that visual based artworks be excluded from any Orphan Works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

   Sincerely.

   Clifford Mason Knight