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

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I have been a professional visual artist for 16 years working in the graphic design and illustration industries. I received a Bachelor's degree from Rhode Island School of Design in Illustration. This is my profession, passion, and means of supporting my family. I work full time as a graphic designer, and freelance as an illustrator, licensing and selling my original artwork to companies to put on products.

Copyright of my artwork is the basis on which my business and livelihood rests, and is very important to me.

In this digital age, it is so easy for anyone to steal artwork from the Internet. I've had it happen blatantly to friends, who found their art being sold as iPhone cases on a website they knew nothing about. It is a problem now, and the proposed law would make it even easier for someone to claim they "couldn't find the author / illustrator" of a certain work found online.

Infringing on an artist's work and using it for profit without compensating the artist, is the same as taking money right out of our pockets. I put a lot of time, care and love into my artwork. It is both business, and personal. As a business, i need to be able to determine how and by whom my work is used.

My work does NOT lose value after publication. Everything I create is a part of my business inventory. In fact, once the term of a licensing agreement is over, I can resell the same work, recolor it, etc.. and potentially create more revenue from the same piece. This is a great benefit and would give me more time to be a mom and care for my family.

Freelancing is not an easy task, especially when it comes to providing for a family, health insurance, etc... every penny counts. I look forward to the day when I may be able to build my business up to the point where I can take care of my twin boys by primarily doing freelance, which is my goal. The proposed Orphan Works law would make this a lot harder for me to do this.

Thank you so much for our time and for reading my letter. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Byrd
20 Hemlock Street
East Walpole, MA 02032

774-219-2795 | annemarie@dustyponydesign.com

DUSTY Pony DESIGN