www.risingmoondesignstudio.com

July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 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 am writing in response to your inquiry questions regarding changes to the current laws on copyright. I feel that this law is the single most dangerous threat to an artist's ability to make a living from the fruits of their labor. The ability to create art comes from the accumulation of years of study, countless hours of practice, and lots of frustration and tears.

By placing all the power in the hands of private sector registration companies (which I believe some members of congress have a financial stake in) you are essentially tying the hands of artists to freely exercise their ability to protect the rights to their own work. Not only would this interfere with artists, but also anyone posting a picture or comment anywhere on the internet or printed material. Would you like to see a picture of you or a family member associated with a company or organization that you would never in a million years support? With the passing of the new rules, you would have no recourse to protest the misuse of your personal pictures unless you had it registered for who knows how much money with a for profit company. Never mind finding a lawyer that would bother to take on your case since all the power would be held by the registration company.

The new regulations also violate free trade agreements (with regards to copyright use) with the rest of the world and would potentially devastate the U.S. publishing, advertising, and consumer markets. For what products today do not have some piece of art printed on or in them? Where do you think all this art comes from? From artists of course!

Please consider the fact that many of the major literary and visual icons of human history have fought for the current laws now in place. In fact, the U.S. was the first country to support the rights of artists to protect the unlicensed use of their labors.

Sincerely,
Laurie Bebick