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 Mrs. Maria Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I would first off like to thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns on the proposed "Next Great Copyright Act." I am a hobbyist who produces comic books that I distribute online. I have become interested in the copyright laws because I desire that not only will my own works remain protected, but also that I am not violating the rights of others to their works.

My opposition to the "Next Great Copyright Act" comes from it being a violation of the Creator's rights to own his/her created property/work. The introduction of this law will not just affect artist who make their living by the work that they produce, but even people like me who simply want to display their artistic abilities online. Whether it be through pictures, drawings, film, etc; this law will in effect take the protection that is given to the individual by the Constitution and forces them to register all works ever produced with privately owned corporations who do not have the interest of the artist at heart. As an artist, I simply do not agree with the idea of others being able to make a profit off of my hard work without my consent.

I will attempt to answer the questions that you have provided to the best of my knowledge as well as an additional question that I believe is important to consider:

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

Being a hobbyist I have yet to license or monetize my work, but I'd say the biggest challenge is competing with big corporations and publishers who want to be able to bypass me as the creator of the work and simply use anything I have produced without my legal consent. It is harder on the individual artist to make a living off of their work when they are not being properly compensated for what they have made.

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

Most cases under the current copyright laws go in favor of the artist whose copyrights have been violated. But under the new proposals, the difficulty of registering and protecting one's creations will allow for anyone to take a person's work and claim it as their own. Though the artist can still take the violator to court, they will have a harder time trying to prove that the work that is being reproduced belongs to them.

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

As of now I don't see any real challenge to having your work registered. Under the current law, registering your work is an added protection to the rights you naturally have over your creations. But with the new proposed law, registering will become almost impractical for all who are unable to afford it and will possibly become an unachievable challenge for those with a large volume of work.

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?

The frustration mostly comes from the inability to contact some of the creators for the use of their work in the proper way. But the creation of an orphan works act will only allow for anyone who is inquiring for the use of the individuals work to bypass the creator altogether and "steal" the work instead.

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

The rights of an individual's works should remain theirs and protected.

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?

The main challenge is the loss of an individual's protection of their private property. Everyone who wishes to post or produce anything online will be affected. If anyone creates something it should belong to them, unless it is purposely recreating someone else's work for one's own profit. The current copyright laws work to protect the individual's rights to create, sell, and license their works to or for whomever they please. The new copyright law will in essence strip those rights from the creator and give it to anyone, whether for personal or commercial reasons. This is would be a major blow to the creative community; destroying the incentive to create in the first place, while placing a heavy burden on everyone whose has made their living through their craft.

In closing, I would again like to thank you for taking the time to listen to those of us who will be truly affected by these proposed changes. I hope that what I have written will help in the coming decisions.

Sincerely,
Mattaniah Gladman