July 22, 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:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the problems that creative people like myself will face if this new Copyright Law is passed. My name s Mondo Rosales, a freelance illustrator and Graphic Designer, unlike most letters you will receive from award winning artist, I am more representing of the common man and or aspiring person. I have been a freelance artist for over 20 years now and due to my physical handicap I rely on using my talents to do as much as I can to better support my family. Forgive me for saying so, but I do not believe the corporate lawyers and lobbyists who are behind this docket do not take in consideration what they are doing to those whom wish to strive and express themselves in such a way that we could bring people together using such talents as Art, Photography and Writing.

1. ***What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and / or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and .or illustrations?***
   Speaking as a freelance graphic artist / illustrator, I need to keep a constant flow of revenue to support my family and for the unexpected issues that may occur in our lives. The pieces that I have created and the resale of those images is a valuable source of income for us, to change a law that once protected those who create and give of themselves to become a law that encourages any company to take what they want with little to no changes and easily claim that image and resell it for their own benefit is nothing short of piracy.

2. ***What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographs, graphic artworks, and .or illustrations?***
   First off legal fees in a lawsuit and most of all the proposed orphan work policies,
   from what I understand this new copyright law is based of a previous bill ‘‘Orphan Works (OW) ‘‘. This bill has been opposed by artist a decade ago. Any law built on the basis of the ‘‘Orphan Works Law’’ would allow internet and private companies to siphon off monies from artist creations by simply declaring that any particular images is Orphan work in hopes of increasing their revenue for themselves and ultimately destroying the creators in the process leaving nothing for them to live on. I ask you, what bigger challenge can one face, than to be opposed by a corporation in court to prove they have taken what is truly your work.

3. ***What are the most significant registration challenges for for photographs, graphic artworks, and .or illustrations?***

Simply put expense, paperwork, time and volume that would be the result of no income made. Even if the charge to do this was little, to go through a library of work and the time it would take to properly catalogue and file each image and the works that were part of said library would be lost income. If this bill were to pass into law, it would bankrupt artist the world over just trying to comply with this law.

4. ***What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic artworks, and .or illustrations***

Like most artist I do use photo references and some images to inspire me to create, I believe in being honest with people I work with and most importantly with myself. I only produce work created by me, meaning I do not steal work from others and call it my own. During my time working in the comic industry I've seen some aspiring artist wanting to draw like some particular illustrators, but unlike them I wanted to have my own way of drawing. I stand against Plagiarism no matter what the medium is, and to me that is what this law is about.

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

If congress chooses to pass such a law to empower these self serving companies to infringe on creative people alike, you are not only taking work that they have already created, but in the end this law would strip any want or desire to create. In many states there is hardly any funding for the arts in schools, so to openly take any desire or hope to be someday a well known writer, artist or photographer what kind of future do you believe we would have?

Imagine if this bill were to pass, sure all of these corporations would have plenty of images to sell, but at that same time, you destroy hopes of all creative people alike. In today's world we hear of kids getting into trouble because they have no direction to channel their passion, I ask you, would passing this law make it worse??

To prevent this unjust conflict of interest, it is imperative that no artist group that supports this legislation be allowed to receive any financial benefit from the creation of copyright registries or notice of use registries.

Thank you for reading my letter and I ask you to recommend that you uphold the American Royalties Too (ART) Act of 2015. I understand it's not what the corporate layers want, but it's work thus far and gives all creative people an opportunity to an honest chance to the visual arts collecting society to bring accountability, transparency and justice artists' secondary licensing rights.

Sincerely
Mondo Rosales