July 22, 2015

Ms. Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the 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 Catherine:

I am writing today to ask you to reconsider the legislation that is planned concerning copyright which essentially takes all rights away from the creators. Artists have a right to own the art they create when they create it and all copyrights. Otherwise, why create and try to make a living creating? Copyrights are the artists' source of income, their livelihood. The copyrights are the products the artists license. And, what is being proposed would essentially be theft from these artists. Artist should have every right to determine to whom the licenses are sold to and for what products their art will be used on, and they deserve compensation for each license. Having to register every piece of artwork ever created or to be created is a humongous undertaking. One of our artists has over 3000 images with variations.

I am an Artist Representative, and I have been representing artists since 1991. Our artists work hard to produce an image that will be re-licensable because one license here and there will never provide the income an artist needs to survive, to pay their basic bills. My job is to make sure that their art is licensed for several different products with term limits to ensure that the artists get the value deserved for the amount of hours they have put into their artwork. And, some of our artists spend 40 hours on one painting. To license that design once for a greeting card which pays approximately $500.00 and then to have that image go out into public domain is ludicrous. After our rep fee of 30%, they would be making approximately $8.75 per hour, in no way enough to support themselves, let alone a family.

And, then big business could use the image for free? This line of thinking is so far out of the line of fairness, that it makes absolutely no sense. There are millions of images available for licensing that have contact information on them, and the artists can easily be located. With a minimal amount of effort any company that would like to use a design on their products, can find a suitable image that is traceable to the creator. They can then license the design fairly and honorably and legally.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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