July 22, 2015

Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office

Dear Ms. Rowland,

First of all, I must admit that I am appalled that Congress would even consider any legislation that would make theft legal! Yes, the Orphan Works Act or any similar legislation amounts to legalizing theft.

As an owner of a graphic design business and artist I sell my artwork just like any other tangible product. Changing how copyrights will be protected under the law would basically render copyright protection to an individual as non-existent. Forcing individuals to have to formally register each and every piece of art would mean that we would basically have to spend more than we take in. On any given project (for instance a logotype) I may do between 5 to 20 different concepts. That means I would need to take the time and spend for the cost of registering each piece of art. That would surely cost me more time and money than the final version that gets bought. Can someone explain to me, or to any of the other millions of artists, how exactly we are suppose to pay this extortion fee?

Why are artists being singled out here? Will Congress accept a law that allows me to go into a store, change out an item's box, or spray paint it another color and then claim it as mine? This is what this proposed law would do. It is bad enough that the Internet has given individuals overseas a tool to steal, defraud and ignore Intellectual Property Rights of both individuals as well as businesses, but now that Congress is even considering doing the same thing is outright SHAMEFUL.

I ask that Congress rethink this proposed piece of legislation and send it back where it belongs… in the garbage.

Thank you.

Marcelo Rossetti

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