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July 19, 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 (80fr23054) (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and Copyright Office Staff,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the challenges faced by visual artists in the marketplace. As a professional artist, copyright law affects me deeply and directly, in a very concrete way.

I am writing to request that you create policy that protects, rather than endangers, artists, illustrators, photographers, and other creators of visual works. I am especially troubled by the proposed language that "potential users" rights are equivalent to those of creators. Whether or not to license my work should be my prerogative, and my prerogative only. To pass a law that gives other people the same rights to my work as I have would effectively eliminate an important source of income. Such legislation could send countless artists into a financial tailspin, from which they may never recover.

I am equally concerned and upset by the proposed Orphan Works legislation. If such legislation passes, my understanding is that all infringement cases will be treated as unregistered. All the registration fees I've paid over the years would thus be rendered moot, and there would be no deterrent to prevent infringement.

It seems that the U.S. Copyright Office is bowing to the greed of special interest groups, rather than protecting creators. I am horrified that such legislation would even be considered.

The proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be dismissed as an unconstitutional affront.

Sincerely,

Melissa H. Dinwiddie