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RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I am a writer and a filmmaker and I have been for eight (8) years. I have made five short films and one feature film, which have played at national and international film festivals, such as the 2014 Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival and 2015 Gasparilla Film Festival. I am currently writing a novel based off of one of my films.

While my creative work isn't my primary source of income, I am working tirelessly for it to be in the future and copyright is ESSENTIAL to achieving that goal. Infringement would mean all of my years of hard work would be benefiting somebody else.

I have a copyrighted feature film that I am seeking distribution for as well as a novel that I am trying to get published. This requires me to send my work out to numerous companies to procure interest. Some of the ideas proposed by the bill, such as removing statutory damages, would make it "cost effective" for a company to steal my work. Removing the rule, "copyright exists upon creation" also could pose a problem with chain of title. For example, revisions to a work could effectively make it too different to be protected by the copyright on a previous draft.

While I make every possible effort to register all of my work and subsequent revisions to my work, it could become very expensive to register every draft that I write. This is even more problematic for short-form artists who create hundreds or thousands of creative works every year.

The current copyright laws add extra protection and make artists feel "safe" to create, knowing somebody else can't profit off of his or her work. I would urge you to take that into consideration as you draft this new Copyright Act.

Sincerely,

Max Rousseau