July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity you have granted to the visual arts community to voice our concerns about The Next Great Copyright Act.

I am Lindsey Yankey a children's book illustrator and author as well as a freelance illustrator. I've been gainfully employed in my profession for the past 6 years since graduation from The University of Kansas. My illustrations have been nationally recognized by American Illustration, featured international competitions, and received awards in home state of Kansas.

As you can imagine the US Copyright law has a direct impact on my livelihood. My visual art is my income and passing The Next Great Copyright Act would jeopardize my career by making it easier for companies and individuals to use my work, claim it for there own without my knowledge or proper compensation, and profit from it.

As a published illustrator and author I know first hand the value of my published works. Once my illustrations are published I've negotiated to retain certain usage rights. Therefor due to the value placed on published works, the usage rights I retain increase in value.

The illustrations I have created throughout my career are inventory. They are my catalogue I show to potential clients, they are my portfolio I use when speaking with publishers, they are what I have created whether for professional or personal use. I cannot imagine a world (outside of George Orwell's *1984*) where every illustration, sketch, or drawing, I produce would, if not methodically processed to obtain copyright, would lawfully belong to a thief.

I implore you to reconsider the writing of The Next Great Copyright Act, and that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions the Congress writes into the new act. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Yankey