July 17, 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 (Docket No. 2015-01)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you as an aspiring digital artist, who is currently not very well known, but seeking to make a slight income off my artwork sometime in the future. My work ranges from fanart to original artwork, from photography to digital illustration.

I write this letter concerning the proposed law that will replace the current copyright law. Although this law is presented as a "reform", it can actually do potential harm to digital artists in the future, who may rely on their artwork's profit partially or exclusively. For legislators to even consider such an outrageous law is appalling.

The Orphan Works legislation will benefit firms that put no effort into the artwork they intend to profit from by forcing artists to register their artwork and by tearing away voluntary exchange from the artists involved. This line of action originated from the mindset that once an artist places their artwork on the internet, it is no longer of commercial value and is available to be

taken by anyone interested. This mindset greatly devalues the artist, to the point where their very livelihoods are at stake. Many artists create their own businesses fueled solely by their creativity and work ethic. They tirelessly track views and comments, whilst creating new artwork to attract a larger audience. As someone of the Millennial generation, I understand the importance of views and comments towards someone presenting their digital artwork online. For artists to remain connected to their artwork through virtual space is extremely important, because their effort deserves to be recognized by the law, especially if this effort is what is keeping artists and their families alive and well.

For corporations to claim ownership over artwork that was rightfully created by the artist for the sake of profit is incredibly unethical and callous. This is literally stealing assets and income straight from the artist. To know that, if this law were to ever pass and be implemented, it would devastate my life as an artist in the near future. I would be finding my artwork in the hands of a stranger, who may well be earning more income than I am. I would have other firms and people taking away credit and money away from me, when I rightfully deserve all the benefits my artwork brings to me. Freelance artists are already struggling with art theft, and it is the artists that will feel the consequences of art theft the most. To ignore their cries is to ignore the very people you're supposed to protect.Therefore, the Orphan Works legislation should be dismissed and current copyright laws should remain in place.

Thank you for your time,

Mai Dinh