July 17, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence 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:

My name is Paulina Chinea. I am a very small freelance artist working in the Midwest. I have spent the last seven years creating art and promoting myself and other artists, aspiring to a more professional level of work. I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital environment.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

Freelance illustration is my primary, and sometimes only, form of income, which helps pay my bills and take care of my family. Selling prints of my digital artwork is how I conduct business. For me, this makes every drawing, logo, and visual piece a valuable asset to my income. I feel the new system would favor companies who are aiming only to line their pockets as opposed to truly doing any artist a favor. Many artists I know and myself included, have already found our artworks taken, scanned, or stolen by companies who hope to print them on shirts and coffee mugs; why would the government support this type of behavior?

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

If this proposals comes to pass, I feel that artists, large and small, would no longer be able to safely promote or sell any works they have created and possibly rely on for income. Large corporations would be able to take the art because it is no longer copyrighted as it once was, and use it on their own products. Artists, no matter how famous, cannot possibly compete with companies and groups with more funding, greater outreach, and larger marketing networks with our own artwork! It would simply dominate the market, forcing artists to lose revenue.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

I know that I do not possess the financial capability to register every single piece of art I have created and will create. Despite how this registration may begin, I feel that it opens the doors to more fees and charges that would drive freelance artists entirely out of the field. Even the best possible scenario would result in artists paying unbelievably large sums to register their work, possibly making the job zero profit. Also, I have artwork that dates back over a decade. Am I expected to find and register each and

every sketch, drawing, and design in a mad rush, or risk losing my own artwork to a company hoping to exploit those of us who could afford to or find time to register every single file?

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

I don't believe that are many that apply to freelance artists such as myself. At most, we use other works for abstract references but not much else.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

One of the biggest issues I've seen and experienced comes from foreign soil. Because copyright laws are different overseas, many artists have found their work being sold on products by foreign companies. Companies taking artwork that isn't copyright protected in their own country is an epidemic that has already been happening for a years. Why would it be any different in the United States? I believe that my livelihood is being threatened with this bill and now it will become a fight to either pay money that I don't have, or risk losing everything by opening the doors to a market that has exploited artists and will continue to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I ask you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Paulina Chinea