Richard Thaxton
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Maria Pallente
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)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information on the impact the proposed copyright changes would have on me as an illustrator. I licensed work in the Small Press for a few years in the 90's. I've recently decided to look for more mainstream work, which is technically a hobby for now. I plan to grow the work into a profession. My lively hood would rely on the ability to sell licensing of my work and control where my work is displayed. While ther are issues with the current Copyright program, the direction this new proposal will not prove to be beneficial to my business.

My major concerns are:

1. The expense incurred for registering every image that I have created.
2. Loss of control of the licensing of my work to private for profit registrars.
3. Loss of the full value of the licensing of my work to the private for profit registrars.
4. Loss of control of my work to corporations (i.e. publishers) and special interest groups.
5. Copyright infringement through digital means.
    - While there is currently issues with copyright infringement, the proposed legislation based on Orphaned Works Legislation would open the door to and legalize copyright infringement by creating an environment for piracy to flourish. All someone has to do is simply claim that they attempted to contact the owner/artist but to no avail so they will now assume ownership. This is compounded with the possibility of digitally removing logos or watermarks put there by the artist.
6. No one should be allowed to make simple edits to an artist's work and then claim them as derivative where they could then sell or license it themselves, leaving the artist completely out of the transaction all together.

This proposal for change has no benefits to the actual creator and actually restricts the already dwindling rights already in place. The reform that should be put in place should give the creator more direct control and clear consice avenues for recourse in the event infringement is made either corporately or privately. Proposed plans like this one will have an influence om the world. Imagine how it will be if there are no visual arts, no written words, no music and no creativity. The fear of having our creations stollen from us paired with taking away our ability to generate revenue will most certainly bring an end to our creativity. It will rob the world of the one thing this proposal seeks to control.

Thank you for time.

Richard Thaxton
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