July 20th, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Pallante,

I am writing about the recent copyright proposal concerning the protection of visual artists work. My name is Nicole Hough and I am a student at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I am graduating in 2016. I am an animation major, but I also do illustration. I want to let you know this proposal would not only apply to professionals in the artist industry, but it would also impact students still in college. I produce a significant amount of my work digitally and post it online. The current industry online helps artists get commissioned for their work or have companies approach them to do work. The resale of work is something many artists rely on to make a living. By replacing the current law with a system that is benefiting companies, there would be a dramatic change. The policy negatively impacts artists. First, artists currently have a right to their work. This creates the right for the artist to sell and distribute their work. This law helps the artist especially when companies use their work without permission or financial compensation. I don't want my work used for ads or anything without my permission. Any visual art would be open to these companies. There is a current frustration and worry that some artists overcharge for their work. Does that mean that these companies should have access to their work for free? Having companies not financially compensate an artist or give them credit would create a financial strain on any artist. The resale of work solely from the artist is an avenue of income most artists rely on to live. The name also attached to the work helps to create a promotion for that artist. Without that promotion how is an artist supposed to keep promoting their work online only to have companies take advantage of them? It is already a struggle as an artist and this would create many issues for me as well as many others in the future. Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback.

Sincerely- Nicole Hough