July 23, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue South East
Washington D.C. 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry – Copyright Office – Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works – (Docket No.2015-1)

Dear Ms Pallante,

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to comment on the problems visual artists face in this digital age but I must say from the get-go that I see the proposed changes to how copyrights protections might soon be granted and administered as – extremely disadvantageous to individual artists. Much like the "for-profit-colleges debacle. (Profits are certainly being made but those "profiting are the profiteers, not the students.) So it would come to pass for artists. Artists who were granted protections by the constitution of the United States, in a country where it was proposed that the government would be "of the people, by the people, for the people." Isn't the whole idea of copyrights based on protecting the rights of those who create and/or invent?

The information that's been shared with you by lawyers and lobbyists about these matters is extremely slanted in favor of a big business model, and has little or nothing to do with protecting the rights of the copyright holders. It is a model that in fact would go a long way towards shutting the individual artists out. It would make the redress of grievances for unauthorized usage of an artist works, a nightmare for artists to even consider tackling and in some cases, literally gives so called "rights organizations," carte-blanche to steal from the artists that they too often are a parasitic extension of. Please do not let your selves be taken in by the greed machine that is so hell bent on dismantling the government of the people as they attempt to "privatize" everything for their own profit.

Copyright laws as they presently stand are not perfect but they are a whole lot more equitable and fair to both organizations wanting to use artists works and the individual artists that create those works than the proposals on the table – with the noteable exception of, of Congressman Jerrold Nadler's American Royalties Too (ART) Act of 2015.

That said, here to the best of my abilities are honest answers to the questions you put forth in your Notice of Inquiry – Copyright Office – Library of Congress Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works – (Docket No.2015-1)

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

First and foremost, the fact that it is so easy to steal images from the internet. But on a more relevantly controllable front, the contracts that the lawyers for "legitimate" organizations have created; contracts that specify that the artist is giving up all digital and secondary usage rights.

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

Well, if the changes being proposed take place in these variations on the "Orphaned Works Policies" being proposed YET AGAIN. Thy are not o subtlety geared towards making it practically impossible for artists to protect their works or have any means of redress what-so-ever. Of course the high cost of litigation is a real challenge too.

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

If we return to the way it used to be handled, i.e., the hoops one was put through registering works of art -- time and money. As it stands right now I do not believe that there are "significant challenges for the artists."

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

The fact that they are being asked to compensate artists fairly.

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

If you change the Copyright act as being proposed you will effectively screw every artist in the country.

- I stand with other artist in support of Congressman Jerrold Nadler's **American Royalties Too (ART) Act of 2015**. It is not perfect but by a magnitude of ten thousand to one it is much more equitable and fair to all artists then this legalization of thievery being put forth by lobbyists for big business concerns and so called "rights organization" that keep repackaging crap and trying to sell it to you as some sort of a solution to problems that don't actually exist for the honest ones among us as they go about creating a huge problem for artists everywhere (that of making an honest living off of their creativity).

Sincerely, Royal Scanlon, 5748 Kenwood Avenue, Kansas City Missouri 64110