To Whom It May Concern:
I became aware of the proposed changes to copyright law from my former professor at the Savannah College of Art & Design, where I received a very expensive master's degree that I am struggling to parlay into a viable career. In the two years since my graduation, I have repeatedly found clients unwilling to pay reasonable wages for my efforts. All too often, I find that I am asked to create work for free as an "audition" or chance at exposure. I know that this is due in large part to the extreme devaluing of original creative work that the internet has caused

I have been a professional illustrator, cartoonist, and designer for around ten years creating work for Verizon, Samsung, Oprah Winfrey, *Paste Magazine, Flagpole Magazine*, political candidates, musicians, and publishers. Employment has been intermittent and the compensation can vary wildly. A large corporate client might casually pay $1000 for a few days of work, while another might offer $20 for the "opportunity" to publish a comic strip that took ten hours to create. It is a daunting struggle to make a living as an artist. Therefore it is absolutely vital that every protection be granted to prevent outside business interests from exploiting artists and the work on which they have spent *thousands* of hours creating—even *tens of thousands.* The median incomes of visuals artists and designers are not particularly high. In certain specialized fields like comics, an artist might end up working for compensation below minimum wage. Artists have enough financial stress due to unfair contracts, inconsistent opportunities, heavy competition with each other, and a world oversaturated with easily obtained visuals. Please do not allow for yet another factor that prevents artists from seeing fair compensation for the fruits of their labors.

If I create a compelling image that has a life beyond its initial publication, it is essential to me that I continue to benefit from that ongoing value. I never know when I may have similar success. If public or business interests were allowed to exploit that creation without being required to pay or acknowledge me, I could potentially be missing my only chance at an income that would sustain me through hard times or poor luck finding other opportunities for my work to connect with clients or an audience. Such a scenario is damaging to the future of art and creativity, as it is often unsustainable to create anything new or exciting in an environment that makes that so risky. Worse yet, using my work without any kind of compensation is taking food out of my mouth.

Sincerely,
Jacob Hunt