To whom it may concern,

I am a professional artist who will be greatly affected by changes in Copyright law. Currently, all of my works are protected by copyright by virtue of having been created by me. Changes to this law will negatively impact me, and other working artists like me, in the following manner:

Any work not registered may be used without my consent.

Corporations will be favored over independent artists .

Any failure to pre-emptively protect my work may result in it being used without my permission by being "orphaned," and I will make no money on any derivative works.

This new copyright is the same as telling people not to go outside at night because they may mugged; the advice on this law is to never share my work lest it be stolen, or worse, to pre-empt every attempt at theft by paying for protection. This is putting undue burden on protection on creators, rather than on the law. It is fairer to respect the creator's or creators' wishes than to expect creators to register every single item they may ever create. One slip up by forgetting to sign my name, and my work may be declared orphaned. This is not a just law. The rights of an individual over their own creative works are more important than any corporation's, and unjust use of creative works is *not* in the public's best interest either.

Protect artists' work—it is our livelihood and our right to own our work.

Thank you,

Karen Howard.