To whom it may concern

re: copyrights

My name is Jim Benton, I am 55 years old, and I have been a professional author and artist my entire professional life. I support a wife and two children.

I create original artistic work in entertainment, publishing, and a field called "licensing" wherein you permit manufacturers to use your work on their products in exchange for royalties. There's a good chance your children have read my books.

If the law is changed so that anybody may freely use my work, my career will effectively end, and my industries will follow: without artists, the arts dry up. Why would anybody pay me for work they are allowed to just take for free?

Artists of all sorts depend on the royalties they receive on their work—a work can take years to complete, and successful works can be very far apart. Without the royalties to sustain themselves and their families, you doom hard-working Americans working in all branches of the arts.

Surely it's clear that **the person who creates a work has a superior right to the work than people who did not create it.**

It's already hard enough to be an artist or writer without being victimized by laws that let people steal from you the only thing you have with which to earn a living.

Jim Benton
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