July 12, 2015

To whom it may concern,

As a soon to be graduate of Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design and a freelance artist, this reform to copyright law would greatly affect me and my livelihood. This alteration is one that frightens me to my core. The right for artists to have indisputable control of their own artwork is something that is fundamental for artists in our digital age. There is no better way to get exposure for artists than through the internet, changing the way that non-registered artworks are owned means you are forcing artists out of this major domain and consequently making their lives as professional artists exponentially more difficult. You are telling individuals that the lifetimes that they have spent dedicated to a craft that their work isn't worth being paid for. You are telling them that businesses are more important and somehow deserve to use the artwork that they don't want to pay for. You will effectively be changing the lives of artists for generations.

Sincerely,

Kristy Steffens