ATTN: U.S. Copyright Office

It has been brought to my attention that a new U.S. Copyright Act is slated to be passed in the upcoming year. The purpose of this letter is to address my concerns, in an effort to protect my work and ensure that I receive proper representation, royalties, funds and rights to any work I produce. Said "work" includes visual works, literary works, audio works, etc. As an Artist with several copyright claims pending, any Act that removes the rights to my work, which are entitled to me as the original creator/author , is a serious matter. As a working-class American, the notion of not being properly paid for my work is disheartening.

I graduated from Michigan State University in 2009, with a BA in English Literature. I used my skills to intern for Marvel Entertainment, Inc. (a non-paid internship). Seeing a need for my skillset in my hometown of Detroit, MI (during the recession), I utilized my talents to uplift my community and provide them with the knowledge they needed in order to advance in society (GED and ESL tutoring). This often meant that I worked for free or for the small, Americorps stipend of 6.46/hr. With any extra time I had, I produced visual/literary works in an effort to return to my preferred career-field (editorial). I have sacrificed a lot in service of my countrymen, in neighborhoods with Iraq-like conditions, where the danger is equivalent to what a soldier faces in Afghanistan. The only difference between my self and an American soldier is that I entered dangerous territory unarmed. Of course, this was not totally unfamiliar…this is poverty, this is where I grew up. I knew what I was doing and I knew I wanted to get out (again). Marvel Entertainment, Inc. wanted me to return for another non-paid internship, but this was not an option as student loan debt hovered over me like a thirsty fiend. There were no job openings in editorial, especially not for a young college student from the Eastside of Detroit who believes in being paid for their work.

I am currently a Material Handler for R.R. Donnelly. During break time and days off, I focus on my illustrations. I'm either prepping for an exhibition or self-publishing comic books. This is all my original work, my own labor, which not only benefits me but also the economy. The purpose of my registering my work for copyright claims is to protect my work from outside forces. Every day, when I clock in for work, I am counting hours. I sign-up for overtime, which I may or may not receive, every day. This is a necessary exercise in order to have a proper cushion as I tend to my living expenses (rent, utilities, medication, groceries, art supplies, etc.) I do not have many luxuries. As a working-class American who seeks to rise above his financial woes, my only hope is utilizing my skills as an Artist. This requires me to take any extra money I have and register for copyright claims, publish my books/illustrations, distribute my work and handle any problem that arises in my effort to do so. Publishing my work is a necessary move. Although my passion for Art is undying, I do not produce work with the intention of not being paid for my time, labor, supplies and talent. If any company outside of my self seeks to use my work or any part of my work, they are more than welcome to contact me to discuss business. I do not seek to see my work used for the wrong purposes, for political/social movements I do not personally agree with, by people who would manipulate others into believing in

something that is not there. This is why it is important that my self, the original creator, retains full rights to my work. This is why, it is important that I am paid properly by any individual, organization, etc. who seeks to use my work or ideas derived from my work. This is about business. This is in the interest of capitalism. This is to enforce the 1st Amendment as the most crucial Amendment in our country's constitution.