Dear Copyright Office,

I am a self employed artist. I am freelance aritst, I have earned a portion of my income over the past 30 yrs creating and selling images commissioned by publishers and works I generated with the intent to sell both physically and as intellectual properties. My artwork has been in the fields of Science Fiction/fantasy/Imaginative Realism. I sell my art under license for prints and other products. A portion of my income depends upon the reselling of my intellectual properties, a catalog consisting of my current images. I control the manner and quality of how the art I have worked so hard to produce is seen in the market place. I can negotiate the percentage of revenue I can expect from the uses available to me. I depend upon the protection of the existing copyright laws to allow me to sustain my livelihood and help provide autonomous creativity.

The proposed Copyright Law will remove my ability to control my creations. It will force me to register to private organizations—at an unreasonable price per item-- who will hold digital records of my art. As I understand this change, I will need to register my copyright with your office and register with a private concern or concerns any unregistered works. This means I will pay for more copyright protection while having to allow digital access to my work by a corporate entity. This creates even more opportunities for infringement due to the reliance upon others to protect my creations. This takes more money out of my income while offering me less actual protection. Neither situation is suitable or doable for a small artist like myself. There are already far too many ways for my art to be stolen and repurposed by others, no one needs this added to those ways. I will not have my art held hostage to a corporate/government entity either: it *MY* property, intellectual and otherwise.

As a freelance artist, I have no company to offer me retirement opportunities. My inventory is an active part of my business. I use reproductions of my inventory to promote awareness of my work, to gain me more clients, sales, and income to benefit my professional goals. This proposed amendment will take away control of what I create and prevent me from protecting and enhancing my livelihood directly. In this era of endless online un-permissioned use and outright piracy, these new laws will only encourage further abuse.

This proposed law seeks to enhance the coffers of large digital storage companies who desire to make a profit from the creative labors of others without compensation and inhibits the direct sale of intellectual properties by their creators and heirs.

Corporations are NOT individuals regarding expression, no matter what the Supreme Court says. Individuality is impossible in a corporate climate where stock holders decide an outcome. Granting non-creator non-persons control to an individual's creative voice, while allowing control of its use, will prove to be damaging to creativity. I will *not* have my work beholding to some corporate entities say so on how/when/where/how much/who to I can sell it to or who can use it. It will ultimately create a vampire industry that steals the lifeblood of creativity from true creators. Please oppose this horrible law.

Sincerely,

S L Hughes, artist NimblefingersInk.com