To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed changes to the copyright law concern me greatly as an aspiring illustrator. I graduated a year ago with a Bachelor of Fine Art in illustration, and if there's anything true about being a success in the arts, is that you won't sell anything if no one knows who you are.

With the proposed changes, on top of the already high cost of art supplies (expensive software, computers, scanners, printing, equipment, paint, canvas, brushes, pencils, student loans), artists will have to pay to copyright their artwork.

The best way to get your name known as an illustrator is to put your art out there for others to see. If this new law went into affect, due to my circumstances, I would not be able to afford to place my work under copyright. Because of this, it would be too risky to share it and promote myself as an artist.

This will make it basically impossible for me to get work as an illustrator and make use of my degree. I will have spent years and thousands upon thousands of dollars to learn my craft and be unable to promote it while retaining the rights to my creations.

With the laws as they currently are, artists are already the target of thieves who hope to profit off their work, the changes to the law would make it all the easier for artists not to be compensated.

Visual art is already a difficult profession to succeed in, these changes will make it even harder, and will discourage people from even bothering with the arts. Art will be devalued further and the term "starving artist" will be all the more of a reality.

The fact is that these changes threaten everyone who creates art, everyone that makes everything in our world a little more pleasant.

Thank you for your time,

Tera