Hello, my name is Zachary William Adams and I am a very small time artist and go by the name of FlamboyantGarden. I am writing in the hopes that you read this and come to the same conclusion I do about this new copyright bill that you are trying to pass and how it would become not only a conflict of interest but also how it infringes upon our rights as individuals living in the United States Of America.

This law would absolutely infringe on our rights as artists and completely destroy the fair use policy that grants us the permissions to do parody works and other works that would pay tribute and honor what we love. I am an artist not known by many but I am trying to make a living off of this and to do that I need to establish myself in the online community. It is a process that unfortunately takes long and is not as easy as some make it out to be but it requires our work to get popular and that is most easily achieved through fan art tributes and parodies. If you need proof you can actually find it on your website with the exact text reading as follows.

"Welcome to the U.S. Copyright Office Fair Use Index. This Fair Use Index is a project undertaken by the Office of the Register in support of the 2013 Joint Strategic Plan on Intellectual Property Enforcement of the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC). Fair use is a longstanding and vital aspect of American copyright law. The goal of the Index is to make the principles and application of fair use more accessible and understandable to the public by presenting a searchable database of court opinions, including by category and type of use (e.g., music, internet/digitization, parody)."

The above statement is simplified by your means but the basic understanding is that parodies in any art form as well as digitization and use on the internet in general is protected by fair use. The above statement was also updated as recently as June of this year, 2015. Now obviously I don't want to come off as trying to protect this just so I can ride off of another person's) work. That would be an absolutely horrible thing to do but it's also not really possible with the Fair Use portion of American copyright law. There are certain limitations that you have put in there to prevent this. I speak for all other artists both traditional and digital when I say that this new copyright law would do a lot more harm than good. You would essentially allow anyone to steal another persons artwork and claim it as their own with no legal repercussions. Essentially you would be terminating the Fair Use policy that is in place. If anyone can what they have done is original with little to no editing you are giving thieves free reign over the public domain that is digital art. This would cause absolute chaos and disorder in the online art community, there are enough people that do this already but at least with the current copyright laws we have now it can be prevented or pursued in cases of theft. Your new copyright law is allowing people to steal and infringe on our rights to make money off of what we have created ourselves. There are people that depend on selling their art for a living, without the ability to make money off of it they cannot afford to live. You are taking away their ability to provide for themselves or any others they are living with.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

You do have the right to free speech and you have the right to print what you want but that does not mean you have the right to impose a change upon the very law which our country was founded on. The first amendment allows us the right to freedom of speech and of the press. Press is implying the written or printed word in the form of newspaper or journalism but that has changed. Press does not just mean printed word anymore there are photo-journalists who make a living as a journalist not by writing but by showing. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and while that may not be a technical term it is universally agreed upon that this holds true. Pictures not just by artists but by photographers are people use most often to express themselves or pay tribute to something. You would be taking their right to sell their work and give it to anyone.

I know this bill is supposed to make everything much easier to combat with copyright law but it wouldn't. You are trying to make this easier but you are actually making it much harder. It's already hard enough as it is to combat copyright law due to fair use but when you give the right over a photo to anyone that knows enough basic English to say it's theirs, there's something very wrong. Giving people the freedom to sell their work and the freedom to pursue and legally prosecute thieves is great and we are able to do that now. We know everyone wants more freedom but the proposed bill isn't freedom at all, it's anarchy. All this bill would do is throw the copyright system ino complete and

utter chaos. The conflict of interest here is as follows: you want to help protect people and their original works from theft but what you are actually doing is making it easier for them to do.

What you are trying to do is wrong, it is unconstitutional and it would throw everything we know about Fair Use and parody into absolute anarchy. You would be destroying the livelihood of not only independant artists like Ross O'Donovan (RubberNinja) and Nikki Cash (Nackem) but you would also be killing the livelihood of independent music artists like Brent Black (brentalfloss) and Starbomb (Daniel Avidan, Brian Wecht and Arin Hanson). These people pay tribute to what they love through animation, art and music that uses the Fair Use policy properly. Please do not let this pass, you will kill an industry by doing so.

Sincerely,
Zachary William Adams (FlamboyantGarden)