To who may read this letter,

My name is Tyra Willis and I am writing this letter in response to "The Next Copyright Act". I want to say as an Art Student that I do not agree to this. I am a college student Majoring in art and I had just graduated with Associate of Art and Fine Arts this past Spring. I have been an artist for about 8 years and this brings a concern to me because I feel that if something like this were to pass then my artwork can easily be stolen and used without my permission to anything. I am also planning to work as a Freelance Artists and this would make it difficult for me to make any livelihood happen. Also for those who are already very successful artists, this could be difficult for them to make a living. Artists make art and live for art, something like this could change a lot for tons of people who are in school for art and those who support the art community. If this were to happen I would not be able to continue my education in art because art is my life and this law would take that from me.

I would have to start over and put in more money in a school that I didn't have to because I thought I will be able to live my life as an artist, art teacher, in an art business. My other concern about this is the Art Schools. We do Art Shows and compete with other students to win awards and get acknowledged for the art we show. I had two art pieces that got accepted in my college Art Show this Spring. This law will basically say that our skills and hard earned money and time doesn't matter because someone can use our pieces without a word. This means losing funding for art clubs, money stolen from the artists work, and this encourage art stealing. Art thievery has always been an issue for

Artists, but our community has kept this from happening because of the rights we already have that kept it from happening. It protected the artists and livelihood. Artists and Freelance artists have rights and need to keep those rights on their pieces because we make a living off of paintings, drawings, photography, etc. There are businesses that rely on art.

What I create becomes my business inventory. We live in a digital world and advertising, online publication is what artists depend on in order to get ourselves out there. Art is a job and is just as important as every other job that's out here. I have my own site so my art is protected and I can show my work and take commissions without having the fear of my work getting stolen. I hope that the letters you all receive will change your mind on this New Copyright Law. Art is not a hobby. It's a career people live and that I am planning to live. Art is a form of communication and I hope I spoke out to you all enough to say that this is not something that should be passed because tons of people will be affected by this for the rest of their lives...our lives.

Thank you,

Tyra Willis