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Copyright Office

Dear Sir or Ms.

I am deeply troubled by the proposed changes for copyright law. As an artist and as a small business owner, I personally stand to lose a substantial amount of money from the proposed changes to copyright law. The proposed changes would infringe on my rights as the copyrights are the very products we license. Without the current protections, my work would become public property. If my business involved constructing office buildings, it would be like the government giving the public free access to my private property, which I intended to rent or lease for profit.

The photos I create and the illustrations I make are legally protected for my use with the current copyright law. The proposed changes would strip me of my rights to use my own property for my own gain and would allow anyone in the public domain access to use and change my work. That would be like the government telling a business owner that he or she would have to open his or her business and allow the public to deface it in any way they pleased, without compensating the business owner for any damages, including loss of income due to the damages.

It is my right as an artist and business owner to manage my assets, which include most vitally, my copyrights, as my copyrights are my primary means of financial support. It is crucial that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and when and by whom my work is used. My work does NOT lose value on publication; in fact, quite the opposite is true. When viewed by greater numbers of people, the higher the value a work becomes, in that interest is generated through publicity. My ownership and election of copyright ensures that I choose the audiences and see to it that I am compensated fairly.

In the digital era, my copyrights are more valuable than ever.

Please see to it that the proposed copyright law, the supposed “Next Great Copyright Law” is reformed to ensure my rights as an artist are upheld. Ensure corporations, as well as the public at large compensate me for my work by upholding and maintaining current copyright use for my work as an artist. The proposed changes would clog the judicial system with endless lawsuits and the law will likely be overturned after many small businesses, including sole proprietors lose their livelihood. Avoid these potential losses by striking down the proposed changes to copyright law. Thank you. I appreciate a thoughtful and prompt response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Turitto