My wife and I are both artists. We try to survive by the work we create. We've amassed a large amount of debt putting money into the American school system for our abilities. By changing the copyright laws to work against us, you're effectively making our investment in school *worthless*. All the work we've done instantly gone unless we pay to copyright it? How can we afford to do that when we're still trying to pay for the education that the United States is so keen on its citizens receiving? Why should I even bother trying to complete my degree when it's going to cost me even more money on top of the already ridiculously high educative fees? And then everything I've done in the past? My personal blog (http://zachheckert.blogspot.com/) currently sits at 532 posts (with more on the way!). That represents thousands and thousands of hours of frustration, satisfaction, tears and triumph. How could you devalue that hard-earned proficiency by making those images not my own, those experiences not my own?

I'm not entirely sure that the reasons listed are terribly relevant. It appears that a massive document has been drafted in legalese to discourage response. Has there been any effort to compromise? Is it the habit of our government to pass law with no input from the very citizens laws are there to protect? Why are laws like this put together largely out of the public eye and passed very quickly with no collaboration with the creators themselves? Perhaps (if the issues truly are as devastating to the copyright office as these serious laws seem to imply) we could discuss it more?

Please, if you believe in freedom of speech (a constitutional right), don't shackle our creative voices with absurd fees and fines. If you smother your creatives, we'll have to go somewhere were our basic rights can be recognized and where we can build towards a brighter future.

I decided to make art my life, my livelihood. It's my dream. Please don't take that away from me and jeopardize the future of my family.

-Zach Heckert