To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Sarah Lovick, and it has been brought to my attention that there are plans to change the copyright law in the United States. I urge and plead with you to strongly consider that the changes that are being proposed for a vote on the 23rd of July, will actually hurt artists; especially ones like me who have just gotten out of school, and are looking for work and need to have an established, original portfolio of work. If I can't prove that I am the original artist of the artwork(s) that I did the work, and I am the one who possess the talent to do so; what company would hire me as an artist, illustrator, graphics designer, etc. if I could not prove this?

The answer is likely to be no one. Anyone can copy and paste an image that they find on the Internet, but as an artist this puts me in a vulnerable spot. One because the Internet is now a primary means of gaining exposure and exhibiting one's work, and two the digital software that exists can not only take and alter my work, they can also remove any watermarks or other labels on the piece that can prove that it is mine (I speak of Adobe Photoshop primarily which many people have access to and can abuse for this purpose).

As an artist it is already difficult to get a job, and be secured in knowing that your work is protected, either by the company you hope to work for, or by current United States Copyright Law. If you extend such vicious punishment to pirates and thieves of musical and video works, why are you trying to shortchange artists who make visual/illustrative works?

Again, I am pleading with you to keep the current Copyright Law when it comes time to vote on July 23rd this week. I am pleading to you as a art graduate, who has dreams of being able to live off of my work and sustain myself as a responsible American citizen; please don't let my American dream die, I share it with so many other artists just like me, and we all want to be protected and have our voices heard.

Sincerely,

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