To the U.S. Copyright Office: July 19, 2015

I am a writer and a visual artist. I have just found out that there is a proposal to change the US copyright laws. These new changes are basically an infringement of the freedom of trade for all artists: writers, visual artists, photographers, sculptors, musicians, architects, …. It is basically a concept that should only work in a country where communism is the model of government. If such proposed copyright law changes were made, then all artists, should be paid by the government or some kind of fund paid into by all corporations. If the artists are not paid then the new copyright law changes would violate Amendment XIII of the Constitution of the United States. Below is Amendment XIII as shown by http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

AMENDMENT XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Please note Section 1 where it states that *"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."* Basically artists would have their work taken from them without compensation and they would be placed into involuntary servitude. Due to the nature of most artists – which is a person who devotes all their time and energy to create a work of art – they may not have time or inclination to fight "red tape or legal trickery" and would be forced into a state of slavery or involuntary servitude. This is the reason why the current copyright laws were passed. It was to protect the artists of this country from people who are too lazy to create their own art or too cheap or dishonest to pay for what is rightfully another's.

Please do not change the laws that were passed in 1976 and 1978 concerning the copyrights of all artists.

Sincerely,
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