To whom it may concern,

My name is Emma Kerr, and the proposed changes to copyright law are damaging to me as a creative and an artist. At the moment, I'm an art student studying 3D modeling and digital art at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University and I plan on becoming a freelance artist when I graduate next year.

As a fledgling artist, requiring me to register my artwork and pay fees to claim copyright is hurtful, as all my studio expenses come directly from my own pocket. This means that either I will have to charge my clients more for my work (to cover the new expenses) or eat the costs from my already modest earnings.

I'm going to side track for a moment but I promise that this is germain to the topic. As a freelance artist, I post examples of my artwork online and on social media websites. The probability of people stealing my artwork is present, but under current laws I can protect myself as long as I have proof that I did, in fact, create the original document and own the art piece in question. However, his proposed copyright law widens people's abilities claim "accidental" infringement and makes it easier for theft to happen. Since social media is a global market, people all over the country and the world can now claim "accidental infringement" and be forgiven. In other words, this proposed law favors the idea of artists paying to protect themselves, but easily gives plenty of ways for thieves to be excused or forgiven.
On top of that, the proposed changes also favor big companies and businesses that can easily and readily absorb the cost of licensing and legal fees. It puts them at an advantage over small-time freelance artists.

The proposed changes to copyright law are unfair and neglectful of people on the small end of production. It panders to big companies and gives thieves forgiveness under broad and widening "unintentional infringement" laws. It in no way helps the people who need the most protection and is costly to small business and freelance workers.
I ask that you please reconsider the current proposal or get rid of it altogether if it cannot be wrote in a way that protects me -as a freelance artist and creative citizen.

Thank you for your time,
Emma Kerr