U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To whom it may concern,

I've found out recently about the new copyright law that has been proposed, which will replace all copyright law should it be allowed to pass. Normally I might turn my head, let the world turn as it may, and content myself with the result thinking, "it's not my problem," as I have done with other proposed laws before.

But as an artist, this *is* my problem. I am no premier artist, and I am far from a veteran with many decades of experience—at best, I am a hobbyist. I post a lot of art online as a way to have fun and connect with other people. Though I love drawing, I have no clue if my works or ideas will make any money in the future.

Therein is where my problem lies. This new law would pressure even hobbyists like me to register every piece of artwork they've ever made. Many of my drawings could not be registered, such as non-profit works for different TV shows, books, and other series in the media. Nor would I want to register fan-made works with a commercial registry. And as far as my completely original works are concerned, I would much rather keep them to myself and out of the hands of commercial influence. Even if I wanted to register my original works, I wouldn't have the time to fill out a form for every single drawing and wait for acceptance.

I could just refuse to register my drawings and carry on like always, but then my works will have *no protection*. There will no longer be any law that recognizes the fact that I spend hours of time painting. And without protection, my work will be open to anyone who wants to commercially infringe me. Not only that, other people will be free to alter my work and register the modified drawing as their own. This blatant disrespect for rights to property affects far more people than small internet-based hobbyists like me. It affects those who have worked with visual media all their lives. Where once all an artist had to do to claim ownership of their drawing was sign their name, now we are in danger of every artist's signature losing its weight and importance. Not only that, every artist is in danger of losing their importance as a U.S. citizen, thanks to how the proposed law would violate our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work (please see Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S Constitution).

If you have any respect or care for artists as belonging to a profession and our great country, I hope you will do everything you can to help the fight to dismiss the new copyright law.

Sincerely,

Iris A. Patton