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Copyright Office

To Whom it may Concern,

I have been writing, drawing, licensing, and selling my cartoons since 1987. During that time, I have won awards, earned some money, but I have also seen the decline in newspaper advertising and readership, and the growth of new media as an outlet for cartoons. One of the effects of growth in this area has been a decline in my income - in large part due to the difficulty of securing revenue from internet based outlets.

To think that there is legislation being proposed that would make things even more difficult for me to be paid is very discouraging. But it's not just for me personally. If "content creators" have less protection, then they can't earn a living. A climate that is unfriendly to creators doesn't diminish the need for content, but it quickly diminishes the quality of that content - as "stock" images are pirated, newspaper articles are rehashed without giving credit, music is stolen, etc. When creators aren't protected, and cannot earn a living, everyone suffers - including - in the long run - those very outlets who think they are saving money by cutting corners. In the end, the audience can tell they are receiving canned material, and those outlets are abandoned. How much better it would be to continue to set our sights higher: towards fairness - which leads to better quality materials - and standards that continue to rise instead of sinking.

Sincerely,

Isabella Bannerman