I want to thank you for taking the time to read over my concerns on the new proposed Copyright changes. This is a very serious concern many artists and creators, and I have.

First off please understand, creating IS our craft. To allow a law that strips away our right to profit from what we create is to strip away our ability to make a living. Just as you would not allow a car company to 'accidentally steal' another company's car design, please do not allow someone to 'accidentally steal' our work.

I know someone who is not an artist cannot always understand why this matters. So, if you would indulge me, I would like to walk you through what I, and most all artists, go through. We spend hours honing our skills as an artist to create works that can make a living for us. Then we create art to put out there for the public to buy. It is a struggle to do so. It requires us contacting art directors, editors, anyone, that can make a purchase. Then we sell them the RIGHTS to use that art. Maybe a spot illustration for their magazine or blog, maybe a cover for an album, maybe a cartoon for a newspaper. We are not really selling the ART but the RIGHTS to use the art. So with this new law it makes it possible for someone who may want my art to simply take it off the internet and use it, without payment. You will be taking away the very commodity we are selling. This would be like going into a store, not seeing a clerk, so you assume it is free, and walk out with it. Why is that not ok, but allowing someone to steal the item I am selling is?

This is an attack on artists. We struggle to make a living in the world as it is. I ask you to please. PLEASE, vote no on the new Copyright law. Allow us artists to still own our work, to be able to protect our work, and to be able to make a living with our work.

Thank you for your time.

Dwayne Biddix