July 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed copyright law changes that are coming up for discussion and I want to let you know that I am strongly opposed to these changes and that they will further damage my work and industry even more than it is already damaged in our country.

I am an animation artist and illustrator, and my family and I depend on money that I earn from my ideas and the execution of those ideas using my own art style.

These are the ways that the 2015 Orphan Works Act would harm my career:

The purchase of total rights for a piece of art can mean a higher selling price for an artist. A client will be discouraged from making those purchases if they know they can just take it and pretend to carry out due diligence.

A client may not contact me for art at all if they can just steal something that I posted in 2001 when I was a college student.

Not only would this law enable people to steal my work easier but it would create a financial barrier for me to maintain control of my own work, which is completely unfair.

Also, artists often develop their own projects and works on the side that they earn little or no money from. It would be completely unwise financially to have to spend money to keep ownership of those ideas that aren't generating anything, especially when the internet is an extremely important way for your art to reach people who may invest in your project or purchase works or become interested in your art as a result.

Most artists also leave school with large student loans and have a hard enough time even repaying those without also having to pay for their own ideas.

I hope you understand why I am against these changes and I hope that you take artists and their livelihoods as well as the importance of unfettered artistic contribution to an educated society into consideration, and drop these changes.

Thank you very much,

Darcy Vorhees