July 20, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I am a freelance illustrator and animator, I am just starting in this but want to keep doing this for a long time. I already understand that I cannot do this without copyright. It is the only protection I have for my artwork and provides a way to get paid a decent living for those who would want the right to it. Without it, it could appear anywhere and I would not receive credit nor royalties for it. Artist live off royalties, without it we could not pay rent or bills. And without credit we do not receive new business.

Even if I tried to mark it in a way that's mine with a watermark, thieves and companies have found way to remove these. This bill will not protect me or my works in the least. It would make it easier for thieves to take these works I spent many hours on and get paid for it. It would leave me with nothing despite the fact I was the one to make it. I would not be able to register everything I have and will make, it would be impossible. As much as I would like to.

Just because it might sit and collect dust doesn't give the right to a 'potential user(s)', it is mine to do with. If a 'potential user(s)' would like to use my image/animation then they need to come to me to discuss terms. If this act is passed Illustration, Animation, Film, and anything else that falls under this will take a sharp fall as everyone will be too scared to share. The US copyright Act is fine as it is now, it protects artists just fine.

I would like to thank you for reading my letter and ask that visual art or animation at least be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into this new copyright act.

Thank you,

-Elizabeth Jenkins