To whom it may concern,

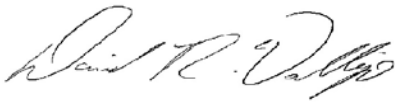
I have been made aware that possible changes in the current copyright law are being considered. Since I am a working artist and illustrator, this concerns me greatly.
Since I am also very busy trying to meet deadlines (that will help pay my bills and put food on the table for my family), I will keep this letter brief and to the point. Just know that I, along with many artists, need to have laws that allow ownership to the creator in order for them to have the ability to control how their creations are used and to support their livelihood.

To save time, I am using my response to a comment on a social media site. I think it succinctly expresses my concern for the possible changes in the law and why it is important to at least maintain the current law.

"Regarding the complexity of the law, I personally find that enforcing it can be quite challenging, and negotiating rights can sometimes be a daunting task. But as the law is presently, it is pretty straight-forward. For example, if an artist creates a work, it is automatically copyrighted to the artist. No registration, no fees. The proposed new law possibly threatens the ease of artist ownership by having all published materials needing to be registered to private sector organizations and charging fees for the process. Additionally, artists may have to register past work. This means if you have had a long career in the arts, you are not only going to have to put down a sizable chunk of change to protect your work, you're going to have to spend many billable business hours to register everything. I'm not sure if these possibilities are "hyperbole", but artists should know that there are companies that are currently stealing art and would probably support a law like this. Personally, I would rather have people steal my work under current law than have to deal with possibilities of the proposed law."

Thank you for allowing the artistic community to voice their concerns.

Sincerely,



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