July 23, 2015

Congress Members,

Residing in New Hampshire, I am a regionally known professional artist that depends on teaching, commissions, and the sale of my work for income. For obvious reasons, I am fearful that the proposed “Next Great Copyright Act” could severely limit my livelihood. I confess to not understanding the “small print” of the proposed legislation, but this much I do know: The USA is a laughing stock on the international stage when it comes to its unparalleled tendency to underfund and undervalue the arts, visual and otherwise. The right to a personal copyright on one’s work is one of the few entities in our legal infrastructure that theoretically incentivizes an artist to search for professionalism and excellence. If our laws evolve to eviscerate that right so that internet providers can steal artistic content and publish if for “free”, then we will have taken yet one more step to level the playing field between professionals and hobbyists. It that should happen, shame on us.

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