Letter to the Copyright Office

As it stands, artwork (especially in the visual realm) is incredibly difficult to monetize. I know many respectable and hard-working artists that are already plagued by problem of copyright issues, fighting day by day just to get by while their artwork is stolen and printed to be sold without any personal recognition or gain from their incredible effort. Artists are truly ghosts in their own trade in present day, passing this legislation will make the monetization of artwork impossible and the effect will be the death of art as high entertainment and the birth of mindless, pointless, worthless, and desperate consumption. No one will care to pay artists for their enjoyment, effectively killing the possibility of living off of art and, eventually, killing these businesses that scavenge and claim art as their own as there will be no one to produce what they steal.

As a sophomore in college studying Illustration at university, I have little knowledge on many of the legal aspects of copyright infringement and have not had personal experience with them. *However,* I have many times been warned by the ongoing theft in the digital age of intellectual property being used improperly and unjustly by not only individuals simply looking for personal gain but also huge companies and organizations that use underhanded tactics to claim one person's creation as their own. Animation studios are *especially* guilty of this and almost have immunity to lawsuits because of the vast amount of money and influence they hold over the art world.

Artists are known not to be tidy and well-versed in law and legislation which makes an exploitation like this bill especially convenient for the ones that propose it as we typically avoid involvement in the real world and focus more on creating our own. While art may be "useless" in the sense of practicality, often the most useless, extravagant objects inspire the innate usefulness of humans and convince mankind that life is certainly something to be curious about and encourage them to *do better*. If artists cannot enforce the copyright of their intellectual property, they will never be able to support their livelihood and end up forced out of the market.

Please, as an individual who only hopes to help others, I plead to you directly to help me keep helping others with my art. There is no question, this legislation, if passed, will destroy me.