Dear Copyright Office,

I understand your stance on this. Really, I do. I and many others appreciate the fact that you acknowledge that visual artists face special challenges when it comes to the copyright of their work. Even with current standards in place, awesome, great, even just “actually pretty good” artists still struggle to keep their work as theirs. Especially on sites such as Tumblr, people remove sources, watermarks, and comments from the artist.

I don't think anyone who does this realizes how much this damages the artist. People repost things artists are trying to sell a lot. If we get it for free, what does the author get? Nothing. It damages their livelihoods in the process. Many people raise money through commissions to pay for surgery, pay for supplies, or to keep a roof over their heads. If this law is put into place, many people will lose their homes or their lives.

What does the public get out of this? The right to cheat artists out of their work? People will edit artists artwork and copyright it in their own name. That just keeps people from making their own work. Or, you know, *paying for it like a decent human being.*

Concerning the people that don't sell their work, who just make it for the sake of making it, it leaves them in a bind too. I'm one of those people. If people started posting my work without crediting it, if people started attaching their own stories to characters I have created, it's an offense to the fact that I worked hard on these characters. I went through half a dozen designs to make this character, and now people are just disregarding it all. I could just not post it. But where does that leave me? What's the point of making it if I can't share it with anyone without people disregarding my work? This would be discouraging to many young artists, especially since it's almost inevitable that people are going to mock the original work in edits and usage if they thought it was bad.

Please reconsider this. Many people don't have the resources to register every single piece of work they make to make sure people don't steal it. People will lose their livelihoods over this. People will lose their hope over this. This wonderful land of sharing that the Internet has cultivated? This place where there are measures to take if work is copied or stolen? People will lose that too.

Thank you,
Elvin