To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a freelance illustrator, to ask that you create a policy to protect visual artists and their exclusive rights, and support a sustainable environment for professional artistic creation.

My income is based on monetizing and licensing of my artwork. Without this ability, I would be unable to support myself. With today's digital programs, my name can easily be stripped off my work and the image used somewhere else without my knowledge. Credit could be given to the person who stole the work, and he/she could make money off of it. It is all too easy to forget a byline on a blog or to purposefully take credit for another's work.

Having to register my work would be a troublesome process. Keeping track of all the sketches and notes and revisions that make up a single artwork would be hard for anyone. I have used an entire sketchbook's worth of paper on one image. Inspiration can strike anywhere and it can be hard to keep track of all those little scraps of paper with those first doodles on them.

Most times, it is easy to find the artist responsible for any given work. We purposefully put our names out there and want to be contacted by possible clients. If the work was found somewhere without a name present, a simple image search will most times point you in the right direction.

It is increasingly difficult to keep track of and find any possible infringement on your own artwork. Easy digital manipulation and online businesses which rip images from the web for stock usage are growing increasingly common. These works are the lifeblood of visual artists. We need strong copyright laws to protect our incomes.

These new copyright proposals pose to challenge and endanger the ability for artists everywhere to support themselves with their art, and I strongly encourage you not to adopt them.

Sincerely,
Sara Thornburg