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A. Duck Illustrations
Brian Diskin

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As a freelance cartoonist, projects are far and few between. This means my income can be scarce for many weeks. One way to earn consistent secondary income is through licensing my artwork. This can only be done if the artwork is protected by copyright law, allowing me to retain control of the artwork and how it is used.

Also, many lucrative clients insist on exclusivity for an extended period of time, but I cannot guarantee exclusivity if the copyright law is weakened.

If the cost of copyrighting is too expensive, artists like me won't be able to afford to protect our livelihood. We will be forced to charge a much higher price for commissioned artwork to cover high copyrighting costs and to compensate for the client's indefinite profits made by using our artwork. Many of my clients won't be able to, or won't want to, pay my fee. There goes my main source of income.

Without copyright protection, I'd be virtually giving my artwork away, working for nothing. Anyone coming across my artwork would have dibs on it and be free to make as much money from it as they want. I would not be encouraged to make any art whether for me or a client. A whole industry of freelance artists may vanish, as we're already under intense financial pressures.

I implore you to not make copyrighting costly and difficult for artists. We can't afford it.

Sincerely,
Brian Diskin
Humorous Illustrator
Member NCS