To Whom it May Concern,

I am an illustrator still paying off my student loans from a (wonderful) two year MFA program at the School of Visual Arts. I have a full time office day job to support myself, but drawing is my love and passion and it takes up all of my free time. Four years ago I started an online comics blog where I post original comics every few days and have built up a fan base. I make very little money from my creative work, but I love that I have a chance to connect with thousands of people through my art online every day, which is the beauty of the internet. There is a down side, which is that my work is often taken and repurposed without credit, occasionally to someone else's financial benefit. The fact that every original work I post is copyrighted to myself means that I have the freedom and comfort to post work knowing that it is legally mine with which to do as I wish. I hope one day to support myself completely doing what I love, and the fact that all of the work I've posted online is copyrighted to me means that if I proceed with a book contract with the work I've put online, or other means to pursue earning a living through my art, that avenue remains open to me and the work I've posted and signed over the years remains my own. It is the shield I have which allows me to be free and open with sharing my work online, knowing that the copyright is owned by me alone, and that I am building a collection of products which I can publish or license in the future, but mainly knowing that my creative life *has* a future. My work does not lose value after it is published. I can still license it, or repurpose it, because it remains my creation. This copyright law would be devastating to all the hard creative work that myself and so many of my peers have put in. This would strike such a blow to creative freedom. Please continue to protect artists' rights to their own creations!

Sincerely,

Anne Emond