To concerning legislators,

I have been an artist for over 20 years, amateur or otherwise, and just recently have been able to make an independent living as an artist and illustrator. It may not be a steady or comfortable living but it certainly helps. Even under the current copyright laws, art theft is a prevalent issue for independent artists and the like. It is far too easy to take another's work and use it as you see fit on the internet today. That is why the new changes to the law has so many artists worried.

Art is just like any other property. Art theft is not much different than music piracy. Too often have I seen other people's work posted in places they would never admit it or in places that conflict with their own ideals. Many involve advertisements for pornographic websites and the like. With the new changes, you would see this sort of problem increase exponentially out of control and the only victim will be the artists and their clients.

I, and every artist, urge you to reconsider these changes. Treat art as it should be, as property of the creators and true owners, and protect it like any other.

Thank you for your time,

Chad C. Austin