To whom it may concern,

Thank you for listening to the concerns of individual artists and visual creatives as we explain why the proposed law will damage both our own ability to provide for our families and also will damage the creative spirit of America as a whole.

There are many people submitting letters to you who can discuss this with legal vernacular better than I can, so I'm going to keep my explanation simple, something a layman can understand.

For artists as individuals, the proposed changes to the law would require me to spend so much time trying to keep ownership over my work that I would have neither time enough to create it nor capitalize on it. I am already spending at least ten hours a day running my business. Increasing the amount of time I have to spend tracking my work will be detrimental to both my business and family life.

Secondly, and here's a more important reason behind why I think this law is a bad idea, the proposed changes would damage the creative spirit of America.

Think of it thus: Recently I finished a major project, a book that I wrote and illustrated that hits the national market this September. When I was finished I had to then think of what I wanted to do next in order to make a living. One impulse was to illustrate "The Little Prince," by Antoine de Saint Exupery and self-publish that version. At the time this impulse was simply a desire to mix my need to create income with my love for that beautiful little children's book from the 1950's. But as I look back, I can see that to illustrate his book, rather than come up with a creative product of my own, would have been a lackluster contribution to the world of wholesome entertainment. You see, The Little Prince is already both beautifully written and illustrated. Were I to illustrate and try to make income from it, the vast majority of the creative content would not have been anything new. Rather, it would have been simply a re-hashing of old ideas.

Thankfully, the existing copyright laws protect the interests of the author, Exupery, from people who want to make derivative works for another decade or so. That meant that I had to stop and think up another idea.

And the project that I came up with is my own original work—a comic entitled PETER AND LI. It's wholly original, and if it does well, it will stand as another testament to the creative spirit of the American artist—rather than to simply be a reproduction of an already existing classic.

We need laws that encourage people to utilize their own creativity, not derive income from the creativity of others.

For this second reason primarily I encourage you to oppose the proposed changes to the law, as well as any future proposals that may do likewise.

Thank you for your good service to our country.

Sincerely, Bryan Beus