To the United States Copyright Office,

I urge you on behalf of all artists struggling to carve their own path and make a living pursuing their artistic dreams *not* to accept this draft for new copyright law. This would be the single most damaging thing that could possibly happen to myself and hundreds of thousands of other artists in the U.S. We rely on the protection of the current copyright laws in order to keep our work exclusively in our own control and licensed solely from us. If that changes, and every single piece of visual artwork in the United States suddenly becomes “fair use” to the public, how are artists supposed to be able to handle that? Art theft is already difficult enough to police in the digital age. How are artists going to find paid work to make a living if now every single unregistered image on the internet becomes free for anyone to take and use commercially without the original creator’s knowledge or consent? How is that fair? Many, many, *many* of us cannot possibly afford to register every single work we have ever created with the Copyright Office. This new proposal is *cruelly* unfair to the young artists, just beginning their creative journeys, who are trying to make their way in the world. They will never be able to profit from their own work if every dollar is spent towards copyrighting every single thing they produce. This will scare off countless creative minds from ever posting their work on any open forum because it could just be stolen, “altered,” and profited from by anyone else without the artists ever seeing a penny from it.

The future of the artistic world is riding on whether or not this new proposed legislature is allowed to pass. For the sake of the entire next generation of creative and artistic minds out there, I implore you to keep our rights and our protection under current copyright law safe.

Sincerely,
Adam Ferguson