To whom it may concern,

As an animator, writer and video game developer, the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing my work are in creating the work and presenting them to my clients or potential clients. Much of, if not all of the work I create is presented to clients that have the means to recreate my work with their internal creative teams. If you remove my legal right of copyright, everything I will create and pitch/present to a potential client can be, and will most likely be stolen by said client and be used by said potential client to earn revenue, leaving me without income for my craft.

In order to prevent this from happening, the current most significant enforcement of my rights are the current US Copyright laws. Unfortunately, with mass digitization and the internet, any work that I create can be easily found, stolen, and reproduced by anyone. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to locate people/business who steal work created by artists and prevent them from earning revenue from work that they do not own, nor that they have created.

Currently, artists (and all creative entities) do not need to pay outrageous fees as well as spend years of time and energy to register their work with a government or third party entity in order to secure our ownership of our work. In other words, the work that we create is automatically copyrighted at the moment of its creation. This allows us to earn a living and control the properties that we create.

The new Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works laws being pushed through congress will destroy these existing copyright laws and destroy American creatives ability to earn a living and prevent our work from being stolen/infringed upon.

The US Copyright office should be aware that if these new laws pass, the supposed 3rd party, private sector registries would take the ability to govern US copyrights from the US copyright office and would essentially own all the work that any artist creates and submits to these private sector registries. This will dramatically hurt the creative communities as artists/creatives will never be able to own the work that they create as the 3rd party private sector entity would own it. In fact, these private sector registry could actually prevent us creatives from using our own work even after we created it and registered it properly.

Please don’t change the current US Copyright laws. We creatives need these laws to protect our property and feed our families.

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