To whom this may concern,

My name is Amber Erdmann. I received my BFA in illustration at Brigham Young University in April, 2004. Being an artist has been my dream. I love drawing and painting. It's what I do best. For the last 10 years I have been creating original artwork and promoting my art by sending samples in the mail, digitally uploading my work to the web, and sharing my latest creations on social media. Though I have yet to illustrate a picture book, I continue to create my art and share it on social media and my website simply because I enjoy it. I have displayed my work at many local shows, and sold prints at a local comic convention, and online shops.

The current standing US copyright law allows artists to reserve the right to protect our intellectual property. Currently we can freely share finished works, sketches, or works in progress on social media without the risk of infringement, whether the work has been registered or not. If this newly proposed copyright legislation goes into effect, it will hurt my efforts in sharing and promoting my work. It will give infringers the right to steal my intellectual property without my permission. In the effort for promotion and connecting with potential clients who seek my talent, it will mean that I and other promoting artists will have to complete paper work and pay extra fees to ensure all work from the past, present and future is protected from infringement and intellectual property theft before proceeding with uploading any sketches, works in progress, and finished works of art. Promoting artwork and reaching out to the proper outlets is a great challenge, and if this legislation goes into effect, it will make it much more challenging. It will hurt my career as an artist by taking away my time and money in my efforts to become a successful artist.

I hope you will take these matters into serious consideration before moving forward.

Sincerely,

Amber Erdmann