July 9, 2015

To whom it may concern:

My name is Christopher Sanchez. I am a digital artist residing in Lubbock, Texas. I have been working in the digital and graphic arts fields off and on for 16 years and hold a BFA in Design Communication from Texas Tech University. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed revamping of the current copyright laws.

As a digital artist, all the works I create have an economic value, either in direct income from current clients, future income by showcasing skills to prospective clients and employers, or as intellectual properties that can be optioned for future endeavors. Every hour that I spend on my art is an investment that has an economic return, therefore, the copyright protection of my works is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business and career rests. Copyrights are the products I license and those who would infringe on my copyrights are essentially stealing my livelihood. It is vital that I remain able to determine to whom my work is sold and used.

It has been suggested that because works of art are published online or elsewhere loses value, but I disagree. The works I publish online hold their value and become part of my business inventory, allowing the works, as well as my skills that created them, to have more value.

I wish to strongly reemphasize how revamping the current copyright laws to allow others to monetize my works without my permission or renumeration would not only destroy the value of my works, education and efforts, but would also put an entire industry at risk that is already having a difficult time competing in the world markets. I strongly urge you to consider this when making any recommendations about the current and future copyright laws.

Respectfully,

Christopher Sanchez
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