While I understand the limited upside to this bill, the damage this does to artists of all kinds, including small, independent business owners who rely on their creations and the ability to pursue those who would steal them to make a quick buck is greater than I think the people drafting this bill could understand. The undefined statement of “Diligent Effort” is not good enough, and the impossibility of re-registering the thousands of works I have done over the years in indeterminate ways is crushing. My works belong to me, as the works of all artists belong to them.

The commercial piracy of my work is a very real problem in my life, one that I deal with on a monthly basis. This bill greatly limits my ability to protect myself and my small business, to control the use and sale of my intellectual property and years of hard work. The fact that you wish to hand permission to use my work to those who where unable to find me does not make them any less mine or any less damaging to me and ability to make a living off my work. It deeply upsets and concerns me that anyone drafting or considering passing this bill would think it was.

Please do not pass this bill.