To whom it may concern:

I am a freelance digital artist and photographer who specializes in the art of making book, audio and film cover works. I have also published writings of my own on a few occasions. This has been my main source of income for nearly five years now. While I have not fully completed my art degree, I have only a few credits left before I am able to obtain the official documents. I work mainly in the field of digital photo manipulation, but also work with nature photography and offering stock images to other artists. Some of these works are free, but others I require to be compensated for. For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue. It is my livelihood. The fact that I am able to control where and how my work is used, and how I am compensated for said usage, allows me to keep a home for my children and food on the table. It allows me to be a contributing member of society.

Our copyrights are the products that we license. This means that infringing on our copyrights is just the same as stealing our money. It's important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used. My work has never, and will never lose value upon publication. If anything, publication raises the value of my work, and the need for my particular services. I could not afford to live, if I had to work for free. Even the works that are not published become part of my business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. It becomes a platform for our portfolio's, a prospect for future sales.

I urge you to please take this into consideration before passing a law that could potentially ruin the artistic community and the services that we offer. An artist will not work for free, therefore will not work to create art that will be legally stolen.

Thank you for your time,
Amanda Wakefield