Alexandra Phelps
alexandrarphelps@gmail.com
www.alexandraphelps.com

July 9th, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my urgent apprehension toward the proposed "Next Great Copyright Act". I am a recent graduate of California College of the Arts in San Francisco, CA, and I have earned more than ten awards and scholarships over the last five years for my academic and artistic achievement. As a very hard working, driven, and creative individual, I have the potential to not only achieve my goals and dreams as an artist and illustrator, but to also leave a lasting impact on the lives of future generations. This is only possible through the current business model set in place for American illustrators. The whole foundation of a viable career in visual art is rooted in existing copyright law. As an illustrator, the product I sell to make a living are the licenses to reproduce visual works that I have created. Because I have invested many years in training, hundreds of thousands of dollars in education, and my invaluable brainpower, my artworks are much more than mere objects. The ideas expressed in them constitute as intellectual property, thus extending the value of my artwork far beyond a single reproduction. Just as an entrepreneur uses their ideas to create physical products and services that they manufacture, control, and sell again and again for a profit so that they can sustain an adequate lifestyle and support their family, illustrators need to be able to repeatedly sell the rights to their visual works. Under the "Next Great Copyright Act", illustrators would not be able to maintain exclusive control over the distribution of their products, thus allowing other individuals and companies to sell an artist's product as their own, effectively stealing money from the rightful owners and creators of those visual works. Furthermore, it is impossible for any other person to truly recreate the work of another artist or illustrator, thus, maintaining absolute jurisdiction over one's creations is fully justifiable, deserved, and necessary for extending the integrity of the artist's investment and creativity. If the "Next Great Copyright Act" becomes effective, it would wipe out the entire field of illustration, leaving countless renowned and celebrated artists without a feasible source of income, and emerging artists without the means to reach their full potential and follow their dreams. Please carefully consider these ways that the "Next Great Copyright Act" would harm the creators of visual work, and allow them to help inform an ethical judgment.

Thank you for your concern,

Alexandra R. Phelps
Artist and Illustrator