U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000
7/20/15

To Whom it May Concern,

Greetings! My name is Adrienne Apple, and I am an aspiring writer and occasional artist. I am writing this letter in regards to a recently proposed law that would totally overturn the current copyright system in regards to art.

For me, drawing is more of a hobby than a career, but many of my friends and several family members are attempting to make a living from art. My aunt in particular is a professional artist active in the local creative community.

Other artists I know have conditions that leave them unable to hold more “traditional” jobs. Whether due to mental or physical disabilities, selling their art becomes their main source of income. Several other artists I know live in abusive households and are trying to sell their art so they can raise enough money to escape.

For them, any profits they earn from their art is vital. A single sale can determine if they’ll be able to pay their bills for a month or face eviction. Copyright law protects artists from theft. It helps them earn profit and build their careers.

That is why this proposed law is so abominable. Through it, other parties can use these people’s art for their own monetary gain, earning large profits while the original artists are kicked onto the street.

If this law passes, you will be stealing away these people’s livelihood and allowing others to benefit.

I want you, the reader, to pause for a moment.

Close your eyes, and think of a young man. Suffering from a chronic illness, this young man is unable to work. He only has so many hours of energy per day, and the mere act of changing and walking to the bathroom can leave him both physically and emotionally drained. He still lives with his parents, even as an adult, because he cannot afford to live on his own. The only release he has is his art.

Imagine a young woman, living with her mother and her fiancé. Her mother is physically disabled due to arthritis and left unable to work, but the government has yet to process her disability claims. Her fiancé has a job, but it only pays so much. The young woman, meanwhile, is searching for a job but is unable to find one due to the awful economy. Every penny counts,

they cannot waste a single cent from the fiancé's paycheck. The only thing the young woman can do is sell her art.

Imagine a teenage boy, living in an abusive household. At age eighteen he has spent his entire life having his pride torn to shreds by his parents, leaving him with severe depression and suicidal tendencies. College is not an option, not only because he can't afford it but also because his parents had convinced him he would never succeed there. Every day in this household makes his depression worse, makes him want to kill himself more and more. To escape he needs money, but since he doesn't even have a car he can't get a traditional job. So he takes online to sell pieces of his art.

All of these hypothetical people depend on their art to make enough money to survive. Not to buy luxuries, not to have money to pamper themselves, but just to pay bills, buy food, and just *live*.

Now imagine one day, they see their art in a newspaper ad advertising a product they never heard of.

Imagine seeing this company rake in *millions* of dollars on the news.

Imagine the feeling of helplessness because they can't fight.

Imagine the chronically ill young man's family being unable to pay the bills for another month of treatment.

Imagine the young woman and her family being evicted from their house and thrown onto the streets with only the clothes on their backs.

Imagine the teenager from the final example finally internalizing the years of abuse by his parents to the point of no return, and slipping a noose around his neck before kicking away a chair.

All of these are hypothetical examples. They may even be a bit exaggerated. However, I know cases like these exist. I know for a fact there are artists out there who are facing these problems every day. Seeing their art used without their permission, and being used to generate a profit they will never see—it's just plain cruel.

I don't want any of these situations to become a reality, but the fact is they already are. If you pass this law, more people will fall victim to these fates.

If you do pass this law, I hope whoever reads this letter keeps in mind the lives this law will ruin.

Please, don't pass the Orphan Act. Just stop it now.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Apple