To Whom it May Concern,

I'm a professional artist/illustrator. Art is not a hobby for me; it is my livelihood - and ownership of the copyright to my work is fundamental to sustaining an income.

I make my living primarily from the licensing and sale of my existing body of work. When one of my images is published - either online or in print - it does not become ownerless. I am not giving it away. It becomes part of my inventory and portfolio, further sales of which make up a significant portion of my income.

Being able to control how and where my work is used - and by whom it used – is integral to my business's branding and my own public image as an artist. By limiting who has access to my body of work, I am able to ensure that my art is never used to promote products, corporations, or content that I do not agree with or that may damage the brand that I've worked so hard to build. I am also able to control the quality and number of products with my images on them.

Allowing anyone who wishes to infringe on an artist's copyright to do so with impunity deals a deathblow to all artists, professionals and hobbyists alike.

Professionals in the creative industries are already fighting an uphill battle. The pervasive perception from the general public is that they can get something similar at Target or Wal-Mart. With this new Act the public will indeed be able to steal and reproduce our work for free, further discouraging them from actually purchasing work from the artist and potentially ending said artists career.

Artists will not be able to survive in a world where "The Next Great Copyright Act" is held as the legal standard.