To Whom it May Concern:

I am a fledgling illustrator, just about to graduate from the California College of the Arts, and when I saw the information on the proposed copyright legislation, my heart sank immeasurably.

You see my art is a business. A lot of people see art and illustration as something trivial that they are owed and my ownership as something bothersome. But this is my profession- I have trained and studied very hard to have the skills I've acquired over the years- and I deserve to have a fighting chance to make a living off my images and keep full control over who uses them.

My images are generally intended to accompany writing, or some other existing context. And I should have the right to pick and choose where my art goes and what it is used for. As an illustrator, I have a responsibility for my pictures and what they say- I can hardly imagine anything worse than having my art stripped of my intentions and plastered over something I don't support. I may not spell my messages out in words, but I am *not* a passive voice.

I want to stress that my art, my products do not lose value after they are published. They continue to be important items for promoting my business, for maintaining a specific identity and brand. And if just anyone could use my work after publication, then I would lose so much power over my image as an illustrator. Now that images are more easily taken, changed and redistributed by anyone with a computer, it is more important than ever that my products are legally protected. Music, movies and other media are protected from theft, and images deserve that right too.

I don't face sleepless nights, student loan debt, and an already uphill battle to become a professional artist only to see my work and profession so disrespected. I fight hard to maintain good grades and scholarships based on my performance, and as I prepare to graduate and prove myself on a professional level, I hope that I can stay secure in knowing that my work is my own to be used as distributed as I choose. Because if existing work can be reused indefinitely and inexpensively, then future work will become an unnecessary luxury, and so many young artists poised to start their career will have no future.

Sincerely,

Makaylah J. Fazzari