Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

I am writing to express how against the Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works bill I am. While this proves beneficial for older works where credit has been physically eroded, such old library books that want to be republished again, this puts current artists in a terrible predicament. With the digital age being so advanced, it is easy for someone to photoshop credit off of a current artist's image and since images have no equivalent to an ISBN code to track where it belongs, it leaves us artists opened to theft under the guise that it is "orphan works" from large corporations.
All of this cannot be allowed.

The greatest change to monetizing or listening my work is being able to keep my copyright notice and my contact information attached to my work, despite using metadata to my electronic images. While a client usually respects my copyrights, it is very easy for my work to be photoshopped and appropriated. There is absolutely nothing I can do to prevent my work from being "orphaned," which is why this is such an unfair proposal. There is no protection at all set up for current working artists.

I feel that it should be illegal to remove all watermarks, all metadata, all copyright information and illegal to digitize any work that is not in the public domain and not given written permission from the original artist. And heavy penalties to anyone who does.
All images of artists should be amiable to be registered — FOR FREE — on an online database where people can do to search to see if an image is copyrighted or available for use. This database should absolutely be free with no charge to artists — its a program that Google has done for years and this database doesn't even ensure us jobs, just ensures that our work remain rightfully ours. I emphasize again that this service should be made and should be made free. It is absurd to require artists to resubmit their work to a different registry. Not only does this take out critical time out of artists running their business like every other working professional, but many of our work is no longer available. This proposed requirement of resubmitting work would not be suggested in other professions where documents simply get lost or sold or moved.

I do not agree at all that "potential users" are given the same rights as the creator — they simply do not have that. They are not the creators, they get to decision in what

can be done with my work and, again, in any other situation outside of the art field, it wouldn’t be tolerated and cannot be now.

This proposed bill caters no one but corporations wanting to use illustrators and photographers and other visual artists’ work for free. Many things need to be addressed and artists should be at the priority of this bill and based on the language and tone of this proposal, artists are at the furthest back burner.

Thank you for reading my letter and allowing people in the current artistic industry to share their concerns with this proposal.

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