To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing about the "Next Great Copyright Act". I am a cartoonist and comic book editor. I have been self-publishing my work and the work of other artist since the early 2000s. I got my Bachelor degree in Art Education from Johnson State College in 2005 and my Master of Fine Arts from the Center for Cartoon Studies in 2010. I have self-published my comics under the title DoubleThink for over ten years. I have also had my work appear in local newspapers, Nintendo Power, and many independent comic anthologies.

For the creative work I do, copyright law is not an abstract issue, it is the basis of how I can make money doing what I love. Once I draw a comic and publish it, the work still belongs to me. I can then license the artwork for posters, t-shirts, mouse pads to continue creating revenue. I have spent my whole life training in the arts, so every picture I do has years of experience and thousands of dollars in education behind it. The attempt to make an artist's work, which they base their income on, "privileged" to the public enabling them the right to use our work under this "New Copyright Act" is unthinkable. The income artist's like myself can create with their artwork would effectively be stolen from them.

If this act goes through, the livelihood of independent artists would disappear and art would be at the mercy of large corporations. All art would be effected. Please do not let this act come to pass.

Most Sincerely,

Matthew Aucoin