To whom this may concern,

I am an art student attending the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the proposed copyright reform would decimate any prospects for becoming a professional after my graduation.

Copyright law as it stands today allows professional and amateur artists alike to profit from the fruits of our labor: these laws are the very basis of millions of livelihoods. Artists, writers, and musicians of all types rely on their original works being protected by international law. Just as a farmer labors on a field for months to provide food for a profit, artists too work to produce works that are both pleasurable and important to culture and society. To even consider this copyright reform would be like stealing that farmer's food straight from the field: you could say that by doing so, one would be infringing on the farmer's field. Artists need these laws to protect ourselves so we may feed our families and build our businesses. In our increasingly connected society art is proliferated just as quickly, if not more than, scientific advancement. To say that an artist's work loses value upon publication is at least a lie. At worst, it is factually incorrect.

I hope that in a few years I will be able to safely compile a portfolio of artistic works knowing that my thoughts and ideas are protected so as I can distribute them as I see fit, without the input of a private, for-profit licensing company.

Thank you for your time,

Michaeline Delarche