Monica Taylor

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U.S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as failed illustrator and still aspiring artist, who would like to make a career out of it one day. My work from my failed career, has ranged from creating gaming and t-shirt illustrations, cartoons and comics, to creating web graphics and video overlays. I am not a member of any prestigious group, although I did once co-found a girls artist group, and I went to a prestigious private design school for university.

I am also going to utilize some of what Victor Juhasz wrote in his letter to you (the peson or people of concern) because a lot of what he wrote is the same as what I feel about this proposed law change.

I write this letter with regards to a proposed law that would replace all existing copyright law; a law cleverly concocted by large internet firms and their legal advisors. Their business models are designed to supply the general public with access to other people's copyrighted work with the clear intention of making it legally possible to use work without paying the artists.

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This newly proposed copyright act would press for a mass digitization of our intellectual property by corporate interests, an extended collective licensing with the intent of replacing voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients, and a nightmarish scenario of a Copyright Small Claims Court to handle the guaranteed flood of lawsuits resulting from orphan works infringements.

Lobbyists and corporate attorneys have "testified" that once an artist's work is published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the general public. This is an astonishing and callous absurdity that reflects more on the mindset of corporations and their legal advisors than on the actual value of the artist and what he/she does. Essentially the case made by these corporations is for a gross infringement of our intellectual property that is no different than robbery.

To this part of his letter which, I word for word agree with, I would like to add my thoughts. I think that many artists, in the current scenario, have already have their work ripped off illegally and do not pursue court cases against those who may have offended. Most of the time bringing legal action is not worth it for most artists. But making the ability for corporate companies or profiting entities to make money off of work that is no longer "deemed useful" does not make sense, especially if the work is still clearly going to be used.

For professional artists whose livelihoods depend on what we create and the agreements we make to determine how the art is used, this is most definitely not an abstract legal issue. Our work does not lose value upon publication. If anything our published work becomes part of our business inventories, and these inventories are now even more valuable to us in the digital age. The current "reforms" in the newly proposed law would in effect waive the responsibility of a potential user to find the copyright owner and redefine an orphaned work as any work by any artist that anyone finds 'sufficiently' hard to find. It's a convenient setup to exemptthe responsibility of the potential user from proper searching and void every rightsholder's exclusive right to his/her own property, a right stated in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Freelance, independent artists are finding it challenging enough these days to earn a decent living without suffering further erosion of their earnings and potential earnings as imagined in these outrageous, morally and ethically corrupt proposals by those who have consistently devalued creative and intellectual property, culture, art and the artists who create it. This proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be dismissed as the dishonest, and unconstitutional, affront that it is.

There are already enough problems for freelancers, dealing with contracts, and dealing with sites that charge money to find them jobs, or agents that charge them money to find work. And then furthermore, having their hard work devalued because some big wig wants free use of the product, is pretty horrendous. It brings a whole new meaning to starving artist.

Art has value, and is needed, and is one of the few industries in the world that not only is the oldest industry, but an industry that will never die. Art gains value with time and does not loose it. And accepting such an undercutting law is pretty horrendous and should not be acceptable by any means.

So please do not put forth these reforms, they will ruin the livelihoods and lives of many people. Myself not included, but I have to speak out on behalf of those who are doing well. And I speak out on the hopeful future I may or may not have in this industry.

Sincerely,

Monica Taylor