Dear Catherine Rowland,

I am writing this letter because I am an artist who lives in the U.S. I want my work to be MINE and no one else's. Because I spent the time creating it, I spent the long hours working on it, so I deserve my credit for it. Nobody else spent the time doing what I do. Publishers, big companies, commercial marketers, and *especially your damn Congress,* has spent any amount of time doing what I do just to try and get by. They have no right to use what I worked massive amounts of my life doing.

Think for a moment, if you possible can comprehend, what it's like to be in the shoes of an artist. Think of how many hours of our lives are spent creating something wonderful and a piece of our soul and the paper. Now think about someone else, some Joe-Schmoe coming along who hasn't lifted a finger in his life, taking my work and selling it with his name. That's essentially the law you are attempting to pass.

Now think about this law in terms of your job. If someone else wanted your job that you spent hours and hours putting your life into, and they just took it from you, how would you feel? You would feel pretty angry wouldn't you? Some regular Joe came along and just took everything from you. Took your identity, in a manner of speaking. That's what this bill is going to do with a majority of artists.

You will be taking away artists identity. You will be giving power to those who already have plenty of it the ability to ruin current and upcoming artists abilities to try and make something of themselves in this money-grubbing world. You will be taking away the opportunity for artists to grow and make something that you're wearing on your back, drinking out of, or see on a billboard on your way to work. Without the artists rights, there will be nothing for the rest of the world to look at and enjoy. Think about that the next time you put on your favorite dress for work.

Sincerely,
Margaret O'Brien