To whom it may concern,

Please don't pass the new copyright law. It is a *terrible* idea and many visual artists would be outraged with you if you do (actually, we already are outraged at the proposal). We work hard just like anyone else to make our illustrations, paintings, drawings, sketches, etc., and to have this new copyright act go through would mean that we wouldn't get to own any of it and that anyone could 'steal' our work. There goes all of our lives' work down the drain.

It's very similar to all misquotes on the internet. Such examples would be "Be careful where you get your sources on the internet" –Abe Lincoln, or "Use the force, Harry" –Gandolf. If I make a living of my work, which I am aiming to do, and this law goes through, then anyone can steal my work and all the income that I could generate from it because they can stick their names on it instead. This simply isn't right by any means.

Have some consideration for visual artists. We need to make a living too. Not everyone is as well off as politicians. Many of us have to struggle to scrape by, and for those of us in visual arts, it's often even more difficult to make a living. You may have heard the phrase, "Only dead artists make a living," well, if you pass this law, no honest artist will make a living. The only ones who will be making anything are the thieves who are too lazy and uncreative to come up with any of their own ideas. We have mouths to feed and bills to pay. This will then lead to a decrease in the numbers of people looking to pursue their dreams of becoming visual artists, and then you'll have no one to design your posters, fliers, or anything else when you run for office again. You'll have no one to design ads, no more games or apps, no more cartoons or shows, no more computer graphics in your films (say goodbye to films like *Jurassic Park* and *The Avengers*), no more wall art to stick in your offices or your homes, no more art galleries, no more art museums, no more sculptures, or statues to commemorate yourselves in front of capital buildings across the country, no more art of any kind.

So Please DON'T pass this law! If you love anything good about this world and this country, if you like going to the movies, if you like coloring in coloring books, do NOT pass this law!

Do the right thing and let visual artists retain the rights to their work which they slaved over to produce.

-Merrilyn Kile