To whom it may concern.

My name is Mark Giaimo, and I am a fine artist and an illustrator. I have won numerous awards and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in 1997. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the new copyright law (Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works).

Please know that the copyrights are the products I license: infringing on my work is akin to stealing. Making a living as a working artist is hard enough as it is. Many of us (myself included) have part-time day jobs to make ends meet. By losing the power to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used, my work – and indeed my career – loses value. Why would someone hire me for an illustration or commission a fine art painting, when they can simply rip it off? The work does not lose its value upon publication. In fact, it gains value upon publication and is essential for growing my business.

This law will legalize theft of private property which is the cornerstone of our economic and political liberty.

Respectfully,

Mark Giaimo