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Dear Copyright Office:

I am writing to you, asking, that the existing copyright laws not be replaced.

I am a budding artist who is branching out and in the beginning stages of selling my art work. I have been working through art school for the past 4 years learning techniques, gaining skills, and acquiring the knowledge needed to successfully make a living through what I have created. In this harsh economy, I have learned that selling my craft is what is helping me achieve my goals and build my future.

If current copyright law is changed my future is uncertain. It would undermine everything I have been working for and would undermine not only my education, but my achievements and the goals I have placed for myself as an artist. As my craft and techniques are built upon and polished, piracy will, not would, become more prominent. Many wonderful and talented artists face piracy, defending everything they hold fiercely, only to now possibly face a worse threat with this new law. As I sit now, with our current laws, my original works of art are owned to me. With this new law, my ideas and works I create will become fair gain for pirates and corporations. I would have no right to my art, and no longer provide for my education, as it would not be protected by the tried and true copyright law I have been trained to be familiar with.

I ask that this change be reconsidered as art is something that is personal and created with dedication and skill. It is no different that an automotive company owning a brand of car, or a movie studio owning a series of films. Without the protection I have come to depend on, I will face the difficult task of providing for myself, my schooling, and my future family.

Thank you for listening.

Lauren Cassiday