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To whom it may concern,

I have been a professional artist for my entire working career, and have spent the past 25+ years building a body of imagery which generates an on-going income for my family.
The new proposed changes to the current copyright legislation would have dire repercussions for artists around the world, stealing away precious revenue which many – like myself - have taken their entire working careers to build and protect.
In the past, it would have been fair to say that many images – once created and paid for – would no longer need to generate an on-going revenue, but back in the 1980's – 1990's images generated large sums of money which were ample payment for the time and effort involved in their creation.

From 2000 onwards, there has been a slow decline in image values and an increase in available crowd-sourced amateur imagery. These new – much harder – market conditions have led many professional artists to favour the stock imagery approach to image creation which is based upon creating images which have a long shelf life and which can be sold again and again in license form for a variety of marketing and merchandising purposes. These images circulate the internet, are often stolen and or misused, but the current copyright laws enable artists to chase down infringers and to always maintain their personal rights to sale. By protecting their rights like this, artists are able to generate on-going revenue which enables them to stay in business.

Sadly, the days of being able to create an image and sell this once only for a large fee are long gone! Artists need to make multiple smaller license sales from their images simply to stay in business. Without the current protections afforded, corporate bodies would simply be able to harvest our legal copyrighted work and re-license it for sale themselves. This is stealing by any other name!

It has taken me over twenty five years to generate any kind of meaningful on-going income from my work and many hours building up a bank of images which have specific model and or property releases attached with legal and binding conditions for use. It has taken many more years to build the infrastructure and partnerships to sell and license my work. These new proposals under discussion – if implemented – would undue a lifetime's work in an instant and destroy my business overnight.

I beg you to consider artists the world over who would be devastated personally and financially if these new directives were implemented.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Bret Wallis
ABW Photography Ltd