To whom it may concern (Copyright Office),

My name is Melissa Goodman and I am a visual artist. Currently, I am studying Illustration at Brigham Young University. I chose this path because I wanted to make a career out of my artwork. While in the past I enjoyed drawing quite a bit, I have come to realise that actually creating professional pieces takes not only a significant amount of time, but is incredibly hard work. It takes many hours for me to create something that is worth showing to someone else. Because of this, I do not think that other people who did not have a hand in the making of my product (and yes, it is a product) deserve to have any use whatsoever of my copyright *unless they buy it from me.*

It is very important to me that I am the person who determines how and by whom my work is used. I make money by selling my artwork. If someone can use work for free, then why would anyone pay me? My work does *not* lose its value after it has been published. I can still sell that product to other buyers. Because my work is important to me and it takes as much effort as it does, I would not want anyone using my work without my knowledge or my consent.

While I am currently a student, in about a year I will graduate from school and be expected to make a living off of the work that I produce. The “Next Great Copyright Act” will change everything about my career. In all honesty I might not be able to make any money and I may need to find another career entirely. I believe that artwork changes the world, I believe that it helps people relate to each other and see the world in an entirely new light. Please allow artists to continue to own the copyright to their work even after publication. In this digital era, having inventory and ownership of all work is more important than ever before. This new act is terrifying, because it would literally take away all that I (and many other men and women) have worked for, as well as their living.

Thank you for reading and considering my point of view,
Melissa Goodman