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Freelance Artist

NO to "The Next Great Copyright Act"

Hello, my name is Philip Sawyer and I am an art student, graduating in a couple of months. I do freelance work on the side right now. This act to steal the work created from hours of hard work makes no sense. We need our work copyrighted so we can use it to make money ourselves. If big corporations or websites can just use our work without our consent, that's the same as stealing money from our pockets.

There is little reasoning or logic behind this act except to give in to corrupt companies. If these big businesses want to use our work, they should have no issue asking us and paying us for our hard work. They did not do the work. They did not put the time in to creating. They did not go through all the creative steps that lead to a professional piece being made.

Everything we create becomes inventory in our own business as an artist. We use these images to get clients. The fact that I read you want to allow corporations to claim our work as theirs and copyright as their images is ridiculous. I created it, it is mine and mine alone unless I sell it. Simple, clean, makes logical sense.

Freelance artists, which are most artists, have very little means to go through the steps to pay to register their works with "for-profit" agencies in the private sectors like you are suggesting. That is ridiculous. They created the art, they shouldn't have to pay or sign anything to have a stamp say, "Oh its officially yours", no, I created it, I know its mine. I have every right to share my work with friends and family online or use in my own website to help bring in customers.

If someone uses my work to benefit themselves, then they should pay me for it. It's very simple and easy logic. I can't for the life of me understand why a letter needs to be written. This all seems straight forward that this proposed change is 100% unethical and wrong. I feel like I am stating the obvious when writing this.

I mean just stop and think. Like really think. If you create something, it is yours. Why would anyone have the right to claim what you created? They had nothing to do with it, why should they be able to claim it or use of it without your consent. Just logically try to justify or explain that? It makes no sense.

Artists get screwed enough as it is. All the time. Artists need their works copyrighted and protected, even more so, from infringers. Companies, people, publishers, etc should not have any claim or access to our work without our consent. Fair, clean, logical, let's keep it that way. Thanks.