July 7, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,
I am writing to you to ask that you not replace existing copyright law with the revised legislation currently being considered.
I am a filmmaker and writer. I am attending Central Michigan University, and in the future intend to support myself by doing what I love, which is making films. Since the dawn of the internet, many young filmmakers have been discovered via short films posted on the internet (for example, Neil Blomkamp, who later went on to direct blockbuster films such as District 9, Elysium, and Chappie.). These independent artists put their work out for the world to see, in the hopes that they will be recognized for their work, and, if all goes well, get paid by someone to do more of it.
Under the new copyright legislation, it would be impossible for someone like me to make a living do this. We put our work out, and it can immediately be stolen and re-purposed, as it would be considered an "orphaned work". There is no such thing as an "orphaned work". Everything was created by someone, whether a "potential user" is aware of it or not. It is not the right of the "potential user" to determine how they may utilize a work of art. That is the right of the creator. If a "potential user" wants to make use of a work of art, but cannot legally use one, then they can pay an artist to create one. This will help support artists of all kinds. This new legislation would only benefit corporations at the expense of artists such as myself. I'm new in this industry, and I'd like to have my shot, as would millions of other artists. Under this new legislation, we may not have one.

Sincerely,
Reed Thomas Schmitz