Hello, my name is Nick Chavez and I'm an amateur writer. I've created short stories on characters of my own creation many times since I was young and now do so on the internet. These characters are important to me and are a part of who I am. I would dread seeing a character that I poured my heart and soul into used for something without my permission, especially for monetary gain!

My works aren't for sale or reproduction no matter how flattering that may be. I am writing this letter to you to send my sincere request as a U.S. Citizen to stop this new copyright act from going through. I have heard that there may be some questions expected of me to answer which are listed below. I will answer them to the best of my abilities.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

Since I have not published anything for monetary gain I do not know the steps and procedures, but I would imagine that the most significant challenge to getting work licensed and published for monetary gain would be having a publishing company approve it, filling out various forms correctly and thoroughly, making sure that all contacts are well understood by all parties and that the publisher does a good job. From what I've heard, bad publishing is worse than no publishing.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

The greatest challenges I see is tracking down the artist who originally did the artwork. It may prove difficult but is necessary since art theft is a huge thing with the internet being so broad and accessible to everyone world-wide. Then comes in potential lawsuits if monetary gain was had by the offending party and it goes on from there.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

I would not know since I have not had to register anything I have written. It's all simply copy written as soon as I made it and since I don't plan to make any gain with this, it hasn't posed an issue.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

The only challenges are those of working out a contract and payment for the artist. And that's IF they wish to sell or contract their work to begin with. I'm sure there are plenty of artists who make their primary livelihood this way.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

Depends on if you're referring to the new or old one. The old one currently in use seems to work fine. This new one seems counter-productive which is to be addressed in the next question.

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?

The simple fact of needing to register anything and everything individually is a momentous task for even a new artist who wishes to make an online portfolio. In order for them to get work, they must have a portfolio of artwork they've done. In order to make this accessible easily for the employer, online is the best choice to go with, especially if it's graphical design for a website. That kind of speaks for itself.

But then the artist has to register and fill out a form for each piece of work, each sketch, anything they create. Let's say it's a small fee of ten cents per piece. Seems innocent enough and easily affordable for the novice artist and certainly for the professional right?

Wrong. Artists would spend hundreds if not thousands of dollars to simply post their artwork to an online place to keep it easily accessible and to prevent anyone from using it for their own gain. So Artsy McNewGuy has already spent twenty dollars or more on a comic book he's done before he even makes any money. And if it flops? He won't see that money again.