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To Whom It May Concern:

I will do my best to keep this letter short and sweet. Currently, in the United States, creators have the legal right to protect their music, art, and writing from plagiarism. These rights could vanish in an instant if the Federal Government fails to enact laws that protect the rights of creators from tech giants.

People attend college four to fourteen years to master writing, painting, and music. Many are crippled with student debt, only for want of pursuing their passion. These same individuals now run the risk of have their creations and their dreams stolen by billionaire tech giants who feel they shouldn’t have to pay creators, because tracing the source of the works they want to acquire would be, in Mark Zuckerberg’s words, “too difficult.” If Mr. Zuckerberg feels this way, then perhaps these works aught not be used by him.

Tech giants may conveniently argue that all creative works are stolen remixes, nothing is original, and that no single work has not influenced another. Influence is not plagiarism. While it may be true the creative process is live, see other’s works, feel inspiration, recreate with a personal spin, no human artist can recreate another artist’s work in a matter of minutes. Artists work decades to master what AI can accomplish in an instant.

I am one of these people. I have spent fourteen years in college and paid $110,000 for a master’s degree in English and creative writing. I am in the process of writing a novel. At the start, AI wasn’t an issue. I used services such as Grammarly’s punctuation checker the entire fourteen years I was in college. Post graduation, I run the risk of my work being stolen before I publish my first novel.

Corporations have teams of lawyers to write their terms of service. Most people do not read the terms of service for this very reason: it is confusing legal jargon. Most people do not assume corporations want to steal their creative works. I, however, do read the terms of service. Let us examine section 5 of Quillbot’s terms of service for their AI grammar checker, which I have copied and pasted below:

Proprietary Rights.

All rights and permissions not expressly granted herein are reserved by QuillBot.

b. **User hereby grants** QuillBot an **unlimited, irrevocable, worldwide, non- exclusive, transferable, assignable, royalty-free, sublicensable right and license to use the Submissions for any purpose including, without limitation, developing and improving the QuillBot technology and model or the technology or models of its affiliates,** providing tailored Services experiences to User, and generating the Output. The non-exclusive license hereby granted to QuillBot under this Section will extend to any associated Intellectual Property Rights in the Submissions and will continue in perpetuity, notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement.

c. To the fullest extent permitted by law, **User will own all rights, title, and interest in the Output including, without limitation, all Intellectual Property Rights therein.** Subject to compliance with this Agreement, User may use the Output for any purpose. **User hereby grants** to **Quillbot** an **unlimited, irrevocable, worldwide, non-exclusive, transferable, assignable, royalty-free, sublicensable right and license to use, store, reproduce, publish and publicly display, modify and create derivative works of the Output, and Intellectual Property rights which may be contained therein**, as well as all other rights necessary to use and exercise all rights in the Output in connection with the Services and/or otherwise in connection with the Quillbot business **for any purpose.**

Quillbot can use an individual’s writing for any purpose Quilbot sees fit, however, the public is not granted the same rights, per Quillbot’s section 4-d.

4. API Usage.

d. The term “Brand Features” shall mean QuillBot's trade names, trademarks, service marks, logos (e.g., the QuillBot robot logo), domain names, and other distinctive brand features. **User agrees only to use QuillBot's word mark QUILLBOT, if at all, factually and in connection with User's implementation of the API in User's application or product. User shall not use any other Brand Feature in any other way.** User shall not modify or alter any Brand Feature or use them in a confusing way, including suggesting sponsorship or endorsement by QuillBot, or in a way that confuses QuillBot with another brand.

Quilbot suggests they can use a “User’s” writing without payment, yet a “User” cannot so much as use Quilbot’s logo “. . . in any other way?” Creators have zero protection, and the corporations have all the protection.

Please stand with the people. Protect is from corporate tech giants. Protect copyright laws. Because if AI breaks all the copyright laws, how will any of us creators survive financially?

Sincerely,

Heather Dooley