Dear [insert name of MEP]

I am writing as [insert trade/profession/craft] to urge you to support the Copyright Directive when it returns to Parliament on 12 September.

As you will be aware, EU copyright laws were last made before online services such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter existed and are in urgent need of updating to enable a fair and sustainable future for creativity in the digital era.

However, we have seen an intense campaign against aspects of the directive that would ensure the content on which digital platforms thrive is properly respected and valued, just as it is offline. I am really concerned that these campaigns are supported by large tech companies, whose economic interests are now dwarfing the interests of creative rights owners, whom the directive’s proposals were intended to protect in the interests of long-term investment in cultural developments and diversity across the EU.

A careful reading of the text shows the purported fears of some internet users and multinational corporations are simply misconceived, and that the interests of individuals are expressly balanced against those who own the rights to creative works.

It is untrue, for example, to suggest the draft directive will lead to censorship; it introduces no new restrictions or responsibilities on internet users, seeking only to make commercial content-sharing companies accountable for the use of copyright works on their platforms. Where those companies buy licences to use copyright works, individuals can upload content just as before. Likewise, users will remain free to share links to articles (hyperlinking being explicitly excluded from the draft) and to engage in parody (which is already covered by a copyright exception).

Support for the creative sector matters for people [like me] whose livelihoods depend upon it but also for the wider UK economy, to which the creative industries now contribute around £92bn a year. As we head towards Brexit, we cannot afford to risk a sector so central to prosperity at home and to our influence abroad.

I hope you will not let pass this vital opportunity to promote expression, innovation, fairness and success in the digital age and that following further debate you will support the Copyright Directive on 12 September.

Yours etc

[insert name]