July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Copyright Office Staff,

I am writing in regards to the new US Copyright Act and Orphan Works Act. My name is Erik Lechtenberg; a current animation student studying storyboarding to work in the film industry. All the work I create is visual art, including paintings, drawings, and computer animations, all of which contain either original material or "fan art" based on popular culture icons in the US. I currently work both as graphic designer and freelance, creating illustrations, animated videos, and logos for a profession. Many of the original works of art I paint are mass-produced into art prints, which I sell locally and at large conventions. The main thing that prevents my work from being stolen is the fact that I own the work as soon as I create it. The copyright I own on my work is what protects it. If that copyright did not exist, anyone could take my artwork, claim it as their own, and make unfair money off of it. All without doing any work. If the Orphan Works Act passes, I'll lose the basic right of not being able to own what I create. If a man builds a house from his own materials, he owns it. If a woman writes a novel, she owns it. Such as it is with artists and their art. I understand that a reason for passing the Orphan Works Act is because it is difficult for "good faith" infringers to find artists that can create work for them. A better solution would be to provide services that help artists find clients in need of their services. The current US Copyright Act has worked without error for years, and artists nationwide have been cooperative with

the Copyright office. A change as drastic as the Orphan Works Act would be catastrophic for artists and employers everywhere.

Thank you,

Erik Lechtenberg