Time to write! Please take action now! These proposed changes to the copyright law affect YOU!

The changes in the copyright laws proposed under the new "Orphan Works" bill have been released and it will affect your creative career!

Write your Reps and Senators.
Refer to Bill H.R. 5889 when writing a House Rep.
Refer to Bill S. 2913 when writing a Senator.
Same Orphan Works bill, different #'s for Senate and House.

Go to: http://capwiz.com/gag/dbq/officials to get the contact info
for your state's officials.

This affects all of us, painters, photographers and designers alike
and is getting fast tracked to get through now.
Please take time to write! Fax or snail mail in addition to any emails you'd send too please.
A sample letters is below at the end of this email.

For more info on this matter go to:
http://www.illustratorspartnership.org

A webcast interview with Brad Holland about the Orphan Works act bill can be heard at:
http://www.sellyourtvconceptnow.com/orphan.html

Thank you for joining with other creative image makers to get your voice heard!
Thanks!

The consequences if this bill passes:

"If we do not stop BOTH Orphan Works Bills NOW-
It does not matter that you created it.
It does not matter that you have a copyright mark on it.
It does not matter that it is registered in the Library of Congress.
It does not matter that you signed it.
It does not matter that you put a big fat watermark across it.
It does not matter that you put digital signatures on it.
It does not matter if you get a lawyer- you will get a pittance determined by the offending company and no reimbursement for legal fees.
It does not matter even if you do as they demand and pay to register
it in the new registries that they will form - there is no real
punishment for using your work for profit.
It does not matter that you do not want your image used on a product
or to promote an agenda.
They can even sell your prints and make money!

From Illustrators Partnership:
Here is a sample letter you can edit and send to your local and/orstate representatives and Senators. These letters work best when you make your point clear, do not curse, and make them aware that you live in their district or state and can vote for or against them. Feel free to make this personal with your story on how the Orphan Works legislation will harm your income. Stories are incredibly powerful.

Faxes and letters may work better than e-mails, as e-mails are too easy to delete, BUT ANY AND ALL ARE NEEDED.

Congressman/Congresswoman/Senator (their name)
(their contact info)
Fax: (their fax number)

Re: The Orphan Works legislation Bill # (either H.R. 5889 or S. 2913 depending who you're writing)

Dear (their name),

My name is (your name) and I live in (your city, state). After reading about the Orphan Works bill, I am shocked and outraged that this could happen in our country.
This Orphan Works legislation, if passed, will severely impact my income and life as an artist. Not only will it give license for others to legally steal and use my work for free, it will be virtually impossible for me to afford the time and money to register my creations in all the potential new registries.

(your personal story if you wish. It should show hardship under the new bill)

I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST the Orphan Works bill and protect my rights, my copyrights, to all that I have and will create.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(your name)
(your address)

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERY ARTIST YOU KNOW! THANKS!!!

GREG & COMPANY LLC
76 Tally Ho Road Ridgefield, CT. 06877

July 23, 2015

Dear Members of Congress RE: Orphan Works Legislation

My name is Greg Giordano and I live in Ridgefield, Connecticut. I am writing to you after reading about the Orphan Works Legislation. I am shocked and outraged that this could happen in our country.

In 2006 and again in 2008, Congress considered enacting "Orphan Works" legislation. As drafted, the 2008 Orphan Works Bill would have made it impossible for visual artists to protect their art and intellectual property.

It would have allowed anyone to use a piece of art for any purpose if they were unable to locate the copyright holder after a "diligent" search. It removed statutory damages, which currently prevent rampant willful infringement.

Since 2014, Congress has been holding hearings to gather information before drafting a totally new U.S. Copyright Act. Last month they filed the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report, which makes it clear that the legislation you plan to propose will reverse the 'copyright exists upon creation' premise, and instead require artists to pay a fee to register every design they want to protect. It would also allow infringers to create and register derivative works, which would in turn make it even more difficult for artists to monetize their creations because they would not necessarily be able to guarantee their licensees exclusive use of a design.

The Internet poses an increased risk for art without appropriate credit to be shared, making it imperative for the Copyright Office to continue to recognize the ownership of these works.

I am an extremely prolific artist and it would be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming to force me to register every design created in order to protect it (including past, present and future works).

I have been in the Licensing and Fine Art end of the art business for over 25 years. My father Joseph and brother Robert are also artists and we all work together in the art business. Together we have built a business which has supported our three families.

We have been building our family business in hopes that one day; our three children will take over our legacy and enjoy the fruits of all our years of hard work. This bill will demand our children to rethink their future decision to be a part of our family business.. This bill severely threatens the future of our business and will force her to consider other career options.

I strongly urge you and encourage your colleagues to vote AGAINST THE ORPAN WORKS LEGISLATION and protect my rights, my livelihood, my copyrights, to all that I have and will create in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Greg Giordano