July 7, 2015
U.S. Copyright Office

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that Congress is considering copyright reform that would do great harm to my livelihood and my ability to provide for my family. I have been a professional artist/designer for twenty-five years and I depend on the protection of my intellectual property to earn a living. Without such protection anyone can steal my work for commercial gain and thereby effectually steal any potential income I may earn through the licensing use of my work.

The widespread unlicensed use of intellectual properties on the internet has made it increasingly difficult to find and prosecute thieves who steal intellectual property for their own gain, and artistic creators of intellectual property need more protection, now less. The worst thing that can happen to my livelihood and my ability to provide for my family would be for Congress to make it easier for anyone to steal and use my intellectual property under the pretext that my work has somehow been orphaned.

My work does *not* lose any value after being published because there are always other ways I can license and earn income from it. Consider that music composers are now able to earn income from music they composed for television due to the new life their work has seen from the advent of VHS, dvd, and streaming services. If they lost their ownership of their work after its first use, others who did not create such work would be able to profit from it while the creators themselves would suffer loss for something they created. This is unjust and ought not to happen.

Finally, our Founders saw that stimulating creativity and invention was so important that they included a clause directing Congress to protect the intellectual property of creators through patents and copyrights. Any act of the state that would harm creators or hinder their incentive to create would certainly undermine this constitutional imperative. I therefore plead that no new orphaned-works act be enacted that would reduce our copyrights protections.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Grau Jr.

a: 13507 Chrystal Ct. Fontana CA 92336 e: frank@frankgrau.com