July 20, 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)

Dear Ms.Pallante and the Copyright Office,
My name is Heather Tyler and I am a scientific illustrator. I just graduated from the Science Illustration Graduate Program at California State University Monterey Bay, so I am relatively new in the field. Although I don't have several years' experience that some other artists that may be writing to you have, I feel I can still respond and can provide a unique insight. The proposal the Copyright Office has made to Congress is a huge concern to me as an entry-level professional freelance illustrator. It is very difficult to start a career in science illustration, and knowing that others could freely use the work that I'm planning on selling in the future will make it even harder. It is important for me to be able to decide how my work is going to be used, especially in a world where digital media is becoming more prevalent.
Many people don't realize that an artist's business rests on copyrights we license. Therefore, infringing on an artist's work is essentially stealing their money. This new proposal would allow this to happen.

I plead that visual art be excluded from orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide input in this matter.

Sincerely,
Heather Tyler