Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am a freelance cartoonist and illustrator and have been one for twenty plus years. My primary vocational discipline is writing and drawing material published in comic books and graphic novels. My work has also been licensed to magazines and television. In addition I draw illustrations and write prose for publication both in books and online. I make my living in the comic book and graphic novel publishing business.

Licensing my works for publication is how I earn my livelihood. Other entities pay me for the right to publish what I produce. My works do not lose their value upon first publication. To the contrary, over time my works can (and have been) licensed in a variety of ways: new US editions, digital editions, foreign editions, separate works collected into a single edition, adaptations into other forms and media, etc. Works I created decades ago continue to generate income from royalties and new licensing deals for merchandise as well. All of these forms of licensing my works are part of my business plan, and now in this digital age, the copyright protection of my own work is more important than ever before.

Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. It’s a pillar on which my ability to conduct business rests. The idea that the law might be changed to endanger my ownership of my product is troubling, to say the least. It would be like stealing my earning ability. The idea that I would no longer be able to benefit from my own labor seems contrary to the ideas and ideals of the United States of America.

The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to continue making a living as an artist. I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. It is vital to my business that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used.

Sincerely,

Holly K Golightly