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Dear Sirs,

I am writing you in regard to Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works, otherwise known as the Orphan Works Act.

I am strongly against the proposed changes in the copyright law.

Graduating with a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1985, I have been working as a designer and illustrator and for the last 30 years. Among my awards, are a New England Press Award for editorial illustration and selection of my work for a recent Alumni Art Show at MassArt, *Above the Fold.*

The proposed revision of the current copyright law is of great concern to me. The ability to own, and control the reproduction rights to my own work is vital to my ability to make a living. As an illustrator, the sale of reproduction rights is the cornerstone of my business. It's important to my businesses that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used.

Many times an illustration or design which I was commissioned to create for one assignment or usage, could be re-sold or re-purposed for a different usage, enabling me to maximize the monetary value of my work.

I am afraid that if an individual or corporation were able to appropriate my work as they see fit and use it or alter it for their own purposes without compensation, claiming it is an "orphan work" they are not only stealing that particular piece, they are stealing any potential income I might have derived from that work.

My work does not lose its value once it has been published. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory, and after 30 years, I have a lot of inventory.

Please consider this when evaluating any changes to the existing law.
Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

George A Courage