July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Dear Ms. Pallante and Staff Members of the Copyright Office:

My name is Elizabeth Calhoun and I am writing because, as a freelance self-taught artist, creating art is my sole source of income. Over the years I have created hundreds of illustrations to continue supporting myself and my loved ones. This announcement of the renewal of the Orphan Works means it will jeopardize my and all other artists', both freelance and employed by companies, ability to continue our profession.

Should this new copyright law come into effect, I will have to surrender all legal rights of my works for the public and consequently companies to exploit, effectively destroying any security I have in keeping my source of income. I have had art both physical and digital, that I have poured hundreds of hours of my life into making, stolen by businesses that sought to use my work without giving me rightful credit and payment. With Orphan Works, clients will be able to unjustly take advantage my profession by withholding payment but retaining all rights to the works I have created for them.

As the copyright laws currently stand, artists are free to create works without fear of our work being edited or misused without consequence, and should our works be at any point compromised we have the law on our side to fight back against piracy of our works. Artists who are unable to register their works in compliance with Orphan Works, because of time restraints, incurred fees they cannot pay, or not having access to the original artwork, are having their profession exploited instead of celebrated and respected.

Artists who are unable to pay to register their works are punished by having their art become available as public property. Essentially artists will be forced to pay to keep every piece of work they make safe from misuse. When you consider artists create hundreds of art pieces per day, having to pay for every piece is cumbersome, unruly, and expensive. No artist should have to go through that turmoil, especially since the time taken to have each piece registered is valuable time the artist could have dedicated to creating more art.

While I do believe that everyone has the right to study other artists' works and incorporate what they've learned into their own, such referencing should not extend to outright theft or copying an image that exceedingly resembles the original work. Such acts are

blatantly disrespectful to us artists who have devoted our time and energy into creating our works. Our art deserves to be recognized and given the same respect all paid professions have. Orphan Works will destroy that and ensure that very few if any artists will be able make a living off of their work.

Yours most respectfully,

Elizabeth Calhoun