I am an artist, and have been working as one for more than 40 years. I studied at Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College), Montserrat School of Visual Art (now Montserrat College of Art), and at New Mexico State University, as well as taking many workshops with diverse artists. I worked as a Graphic Designer, Book Designer, Typographer, and Graphic Artist for many of those years and have been working primarily as a Fine Artist for the past 20 years. For me, as well as for many other artists, passage of this new act will encourage theft of our art and allow others to make money from our unique creations, even copyrighting our work in their own names. Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. The artists I represent in my Gallery and the artists I mentor and encourage depend on sales and licensing of our art for our income: our copyrights are the products we license. Passing the 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitation Act would mean infringing on our rights to our own work, and would be like stealing our money, and potential incomes. As I do, my artists depend on the safety and security of their rights to the works we have created. It's important to our livelihoods that we remain able to determine voluntarily how, and by whom, our work is used. Neil Young was recently put in the position you are proposing to put all artists in when Donald Trump attempted to use one of Mr. Young's songs for his campaign with no regard to obtaining permission or licensing the right to use the song; but we would have no recourse. Our works do not lose value upon publication; we are owed recompense for use of our works. Everything we, as artists, create is part of our business inventory; in the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. Please do not pass these "orphan works proposals" !