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Dear US Copyright Office officials,

As an artist and professional designer for the past 17 years I have worked in various capacities creating artwork as intellectual property for carpet, textile design, photography and other fine art. I am EXTREMELY concerned about the "Next Great Copyright Act", which seems to be headed in a detrimental direction. This act would go further than previous Orphan Works Acts and the following three points are my most specific concerns as an individual artist who relies on my artwork for my income.

1.) The Mass Digitization of our intellectual property by corporate interests.
2.) Extended Collective Licensing, a form of socialized licensing that would replace voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients.
3.) A Copyright Small Claims Court to handle the flood of lawsuits expected to result from orphan works infringements. It's important that lawmakers be told that our copyrights are our source of income because lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once our work has been published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the public.

To explain more specifically how these changes could affect me I want to be sure to share that for me (and many of my artist friends, colleagues and others) , copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. As artists (Like Musicians and Authors!) our copyrights are the products we license. This means that infringing our work is like stealing our money. It is vitally important to my business that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does NOT lose its value upon publication, rather everything you I becomes a part of my business inventory. In this digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

I do hope that in considering the passing of this act takes the Copyright Office will take into serious consideration not just corporate interests, but the best interest of the individual artist who create this intellectual property as a means of supporting themselves. Thank you for taking these considerations (mine and my fellow artist colleagues) in mind when deciding what action best serves the creative workforce of this great country.

Kind regards,

Heather K Powers