Hello,

Let's start this off bluntly, I do not like the proposed new form of Copyright.

Artists already have a hard enough time making a living as it is under the current Copyright system. Oftentimes they are underpaid for the work they do despite how vital and important visual works are to virtually any type of production, whether it be manufacturing, product design, stock art, or any other form of profession.

This new proposition would allow legal bypasses for works created by artists to simply have ownership wrested from the creator's hands. Appropriation of private property for the ostensible purpose of some vague idea of “public benefit” is just blatant theft. Especially since the public stands to gain little to nothing from this overhaul of the copyright system.

Indeed, the ones that have the most to gain from the proposed new system are companies and publishers that have the legal clout and monetary funds to quickly take advantage of the many newly orphaned works that this new copyright would create.

The current system, while imperfect, allows for artists, especially those not well versed in law, to have a measure of protection to prevent their livelihoods and profession from being stolen from them by some third party that seeks to make quick profit without doing the necessary work to earn it. As it stands currently, the limit to which reparations can be retrieved without having a work registered with the Copyright office is severely lacking. Artists simply aren't given enough tools to protect themselves already. Changing the system to the new proposition would leave artists even more vulnerable to third parties like art thieves and even the proposed private registries themselves. There is no built in protection for artists in the new Copyright proposition, it leaves content creators at the mercy of private companies/registries with little oversight, which will most likely lead to exploitation and loss of income on the artists' side.

A better way to look at the Copyright problem is through revising the current system to help protect artists more. Simplified work registration, a method of retaining rights to a work even when selling it to another party for profit so as to prevent avenues that cut artists out of deserved royalties, keeping rights to artwork in the possession of the original creator and out of the hands of companies. These are preferable methods of improving Copyright laws.

Understandably, there are sometimes frustrations with gaining access to reproduction rights for artwork under the current laws, but “solving” that problem by taking rights away from those that rightfully own them is nowhere near the correct solution. An alternative proposition that doesn't involve the appropriation of property is creating a contact information database utilizing the current mass of Copyright registered work that would quickly and efficiently allow artists to communicate with those that want to utilize artworks for commercial purposes and more.

This proposed legislation is easily exploitable by companies that want to take advantage of content creators, which, in turn, reduces the incentive for artists to produce art. Creating and allowing pathways for publishers and companies to steal the rights for creative works outright can only harm the industry in the long term and result in a reduction of the United State's cultural exports. I ask that the U.S. Copyright Office reconsider the proposition of change in preference of a system that would actually help protect the rights of American citizens rather than eroding them in the name of corporate greed.

Thank you for your time,