July 19, 2015

To whom this may concern:

I am a hobby cartoonist and aspiring creator, who creates visual material out of my own time, effort and money. As said hobbyist devoid of a six-figure income, I have a great interest in the effects upon a citizen's right to his own creation, which will be affected by the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Act.

The Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Act, as I understand it, would allow so-called 'good faith' infringers to freely plagiarize my works without any apparent accountability, unless I register my creations via a commercial entity. This is tantamount to government-sanctioned extortion, as I and many other hobbyist authors and artists will be pressured to register our intellectual property, including material of a non-profit and/or hobbyist venture, in order to prevent others from monetizing our works without our knowledge or consent. In addition, many working-class artists will inevitably be pitted against multi-national corporations whose income levels eclipse theirs by an order of magnitude, ensuring that any form of reasonable defense these artists could mount will be rendered ultimately futile.

This kind of government-sanctioned extortion and piracy ultimately undermines our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work, and it devalues a key human right that many working-class Americans enjoy. Many working class families simply cannot afford to register any and all intellectual properties they may have created in the past or present, or may create in the future. This would greatly impact creative incentive, and would severely oppress creativity in a modern, open society.

As a member of the working class myself, I implore the Copyright Office to fully consider all the ways this is unfair to those who cannot afford to pay the resulting "creativity tax" that commercial registration would impose. This is completely unacceptable to an artistic individual in a first-world society, and is an affront to the very values of freedom and the pursuit of happiness which our nation was founded upon.

Regards,

Aaron Braveboy