To whom it may concern at the copy right offices of the US Government,

Well to be fair the matter of which I am speaking concerns everyone within existence and some that are not. Never the less, there has been an uprising of a rumor about a new or rather old bill under a new name called *"Orphan Works*". I have no idea what kind of sustenance this rumor holds, but it has been brought to my attention and attained my concern over the past few days.

The vague details of this *"Orphan Works"* can be vaguely summed in into a new copy right bill regarding the use of visual media. Namely art work and photos of digital nature. Basically what the rumor has been spreading this "Orphan Works" would remove any artists' executive right to their own work and one would 'have' to register their own work in order for it not to be quote *"Orphaned".*

In which case where it is not registered it basically becomes free game to companies and corporations use. So long as they *diligently* search for the creator. After such a search, they are allowed to use it. If the creator does step forward than they are allowed to be compensated a *reasonable* amount for damages. After that the company is allowed to continue its use of the image or visual media.

So I ask if this rumor is actually true. Then I question, who in their right mind would think this was okay? Well obviously any business professional would see this as ideal and in fact reasonable. Why should the *creative types* get to withhold rights to their idea right? Well that's the thing, the image is in fact another person's idea, their own intellectual property which they should have the right to. It should be a basic human right not a privilege to make and if they see if withhold such art work from the public eye.

But if this rumor is true and your offices and the government are actually considering this insane notion then I want you to consider this following scenario.

I want you to picture that you've had a hard day at work, it doesn't matter why or how. It was just taxing and very stressful. Now, I want to you imagine getting into your car and turning on the radio, there's no music just the news playing. Also may I add whatever made you like your car is gone, it's just a simple box with wheels nothing more.

Now as you're driving down the highway I want you to picture the ads that you usually see on billboards are gone. No more witty well thought out ads, just a basic white background with black text that says "Buy our stuff". Naturally you'd shrug it off right? Ads aren't important, in fact you're kind of glad they're gone.

As you pull up to your house you notice something odd, your house looks different. It's no longer the house you bought before but a giant box of which you live in. Nothing impressive or endearing about the house. You get out of your box car and head into your box house noticing that in the fames of the pictures on the walls there are no pictures. Not even the ones of your family. The walls are blank too, no patterns just white. White everywhere, and the furniture that's white and a box as well. No design to it, in fact no real use other than just to sit down on.

Which is what you do after hanging up your coat and you turn on your tv. But surprise! That favorite show of yours? Gone. Your favorite movies- nonexistent. What is playing? The news. You then decide to go to a movie still pretty stressed from work and so you look some up, but guess what? Nothing is playing in fact nothing has played in a while. And you sit there and wonder why everything seems to have lost its color and why there is no longer any art in the world? But hey, at least companies won't

have to pay for images right? And there's no longer any ads! That's a plus, the only down side is the news is always playing.

This is what I want you to picture if this rumor and bill are real and go through. Because this is what is going to happen, everyone will be too afraid to make anything! Because it won't be theirs, it will literally suck the creativity and art that this nation relies on. There will be no new cars, new phones, new movies, music would probably come to a halt because they would fear that they were next. No one would be making anything and the country would not progress at all.

One's ownership of their creation is a God-Given right, not something to be taken away for monetary gains. If companies have to pay a little extra when they use someone else's idea without permission then that's their fault. It's someone else's idea! It's immoral and greedy to even think that such a thing would be okay. But sure if you want the country to have the color and creativity sucked right out of it go ahead!

It sickens me to know there is a person or a group of people out there who even thought this was okay. What sickens me even more is that my brother is serving a country where such things are happening.

But before you agree with such a thing as Orphan Works I want you to remember this, within a world of stress and danger the only peace a person can find is within art. Especially within the visual media. This is in fact one of the things that helped world war one and two hero's transition back home. Helped those during the depression and the hard times this country has been through. It's a moment to forget everything that is wrong with the world and remember while things do seem dark it'll all be okay in the end.

Once you take that away you take away any hope for people. You take away the laughter and love that art can provide and cause. Everything will become bleak and hopeless. Because no one will want to make artwork if they don't have the right to it.

I hope you consider these things. While it would save and make a few extra bucks, what is really the cost of art when there's none left?

Best regards,

Ashley Seal