Hello,

My name is Christine Foltzer. I am both a working freelance visual artist, and an in-house art director for a publishing house (Tor Books) where I hire freelance artists on a regular basis. I have been working in these industries since I graduated from Pratt Institute in 2006. I am writing to speak out against the Next Great Copyright Act, particularly in respects to "orphan works." I am greatly concerned about the proposed law and how will affect both my own ability to work as a freelance artist and for the people I hire who depend on their ability to make creative content for living.

In this modern world, artists, musicians, authors and performers are pushed to create and share our work as quickly as possible. We are pushed to put ourselves out there on the Internet for the entire world to see on a daily basis. We do this because we need to get the notice of others in our industry, to a build a fan base and ultimately make our income to support our livelihoods. The Internet allows us as in individuals artists to thrive in ways that we couldn't even just a few decades ago.

However great a tool the Internet has been to creatives for promoting our work, it also can be a place of great frustration. People sometimes well-meaning, but often not, take and share and use works without permission or even credit. Finding the original creator of content once removed from its original source is often a difficult. A regular part of being a freelance creative person in today's world is searching for your work online to ensure it isn't being used in ways that you did give permission to or were paid for. Which is something I usually have to enforce at least once a every quarter of year.

Right now, with the current copyright laws I am safe to work in both the fast paced manner the industry demands by sharing content, usually unregistered, quickly and still contest these not only uses of my work. The proposed law however, would consider my work "orphaned. " Thus legal to use by any person or corporation who feels it fit to not ask for permission let alone pay for its use.

The proposed law would me make a free-for-all of creative work by removing my ability to voluntarily choose how my work can be used and to whom I give that permission to. The propose law would infringe upon my ability to sell my product, which in most cases is not the physical work, but the copyright which I sell and license to others. The proposed law would in essence take away my inventory and render my business useless. The proposed law would make it difficult if not impossible to be an artist in today's world and still make a living wage.

The creators of the proposed law assume that upon "publishing" the work on the Internet, it somehow loses value. This could not further from the truth. I

have licensed work that has been already been published online. I have requests regularly for work of mine that has already been published. Licenses for work are often only for a limited period of time or limited purposes allowing us to relicense it again when those period have passes. Publishing my work brings me more opportunities not less. If this law passes this will no longer be true.

It is extremely important that we do not let the Orphaned Works Act and the Next Great Copyright Act pass. It is important that if we are to improve and change copyright laws for the modern age that we not only work with Internet companies but also creative agencies such as the Illustrators Partnership. Together we can improve copyright laws so that both technology companies and creative individuals and companies can thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

Christine