I am writing to voice my discontent with the proposed changes to copyright law and status of orphaned works.

As a student artist, it is constantly stressed that I create my own original content if I do ever intend to be a professional. I devote no small part of my life to my creative efforts, and spend no small amount of time drawing and painting and posting the products on the internet for my own enjoyment. It is an integral part of my life and my future to be able to continue doing this without the fear that my efforts, my creations, could possibly be taken from me and repurposed without my consent or opinion, all while possibly being legally unable to argue.

The suggested new copyright laws would eliminate the possibility of competing in a professional creative market. I would dare to go as far as saying the changes would eliminate the market almost entirely. The threat of mass digitization of all intellectual property allowed by these laws would be a lethal blow to the careers of many, if not all artists, especially younger artists like myself, who absolutely need to use the internet in order to gain an audience and any foothold in the creative market.

Countless artists already have to deal with the unfortunate experience of being asked to work "for exposure" rather than to earn money, a request often made with the ignorant opinion that artists live to serve the public and only make art for art's sake. The proposed changes to copyright law are essentially these opinions made legitimate in the eyes of the law. My work is not made with public interest in mind. I am an individual who mades art to works for my own self-interest. How much I choose to include the interests of others in my endeavors should be completely up to me, not for the government to decide. The idea that my creative property is so globally valuable that it must become everyone's property is abhorrent and decidedly harmful to my growth as an artist and by extension an individual, for if I cannot have a guarantee that what I create is mine and mine alone, then I have no incentive to create further.

I can say with complete certainty that I am not alone in thinking this.

Sincerely,
Anonymous