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July 19, 2015

Ms. Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office

Dear Ms. Rowland:

I am a self-employed illustrator whose entire income is made through the creation and private distribution of my work. When it came to my attention that Congress is interested in revising the Copyright Act and including the "Orphan Works" policy, I was extremely concerned. If such a thing were to happen, my livelihood could very well disappear. I only make enough money as it is to cover my living costs, and it would be a huge burden on my finances and time to be required to register every single piece of work I produce or have already produced simply to protect a reasonable right that I have been granted by the current Copyright Act.

I know I am not alone in these concerns and a revision of the Copyright Act would impact countless other people who are employed in the creative fields. Despite our unmistakable value to companies in the form of marketing, publishing, communications, and entertainment, this new version of copyright law would destroy the ability of so many artists to continue producing work and generate new content. It comes as little surprise that the only ones who stand to benefit from this new Act would be corporations who wish to capitalize on "orphaned" content and the government through income generated from the few creators who can afford to manually copyright all of their work.

This new version of the Copyright Act is a poisonous piece of legislation that does not serve the American people in any way. Too many of our laws are structured purely with corporate interests in mind, and I had previously held onto the faith that the Copyright Act was one of the few remaining with some semblance of concern and respect for this nation's citizens. Please do everything in your power to prevent the inclusion of the "Orphan Works" policy. Many peoples' jobs depend on retaining rights to their own hard work.

Sincerely,

A. Stiffler