July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Oprhan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am a freelance animator and illustration making a living entirely off of the original artwork that I create. I graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a degree in animation.

Copyright is the foundation of my business. Infringing on my work is the same as stealing money out of my pockets.

Copyrights ARE the products that I license. A large part of an animation's value is inherent in the copyright. Cartoon Network, Comedy Central, and Nickelodeon would put their foot down if their intellectual property were removed.

My art is licensed to specific clients (work made for hire), unless it is personal work, in which case it is 100% my own. Copyrights allow me to certify it is my work, deal with people who steal it, get them to stop profiting from it, and keep it off of sites and platforms I think are inappropriate and damage my reputation.

EVERYTHING I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital age, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

Publishing can significantly increase its value. If client A is successful with one or several of my images, client B is eager to get on board. Publishing increases its value and my income.

I in no way welcome someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge or consent. Would you?

Sincerely,
Ben Luce