As an artist and writer, I strongly urge you not to sign a new “Orphan Works” act which will limit the copyright for visual artists. I work very hard to maintain my business as a creative entrepreneur, and my doing so helps my family and keeps me from needing government aid. My visual works take weeks of creation time, are unique, rare, and valuable, as any artistic creation is.

The Orphan Works act would devalue visual works and make it more difficult to maintain control over how and when my images are used. It is already extremely difficult in this digital age to fight against those who unlawfully use my art and writing. I urge you to protect my rights.

This issue affects my business, the way I support my family. It is a basis for how my business is able to thrive and without protection my art, my work, my business, and my family will suffer. My work only increases in value when I publish it the way I deem best.

What if you walked into a store, looked for an item that didn’t have a price tag on it, and took it home. That would be stealing. This is no different. Taking an image from an artist is stealing. It doesn’t matter where you found it.

It is important to my success as an artist that I maintain control over and how and where my art is used. The more art I create, the greater value my overall business has. Please help me protect this.

Sincerely,

Cherie Burbach

33 Willow Lane

Oostburg WI 53070