To Whom it May Concern at the Copyright Office,

It has come to my attention that The Orphan Works Act has come back to Congress as The Next Great Copyright Act. I am deeply concerned about the repercussions this will have on my livelihood as an illustrator.

I have been working as an illustrator for eight years. I studied Illustration at the Maryland Institute College of Art and Typography at The Cooper Union. My work has been honored by The Society of Illustrators and American Illustration. Some of my clients have included National Geographic, Lincoln Center, The New York Times, MTV, and Nickelodeon.

This new copyright law is not some abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. As an illustrator, my copyrights are the products I license. That means, infringing my work is like stealing my money. It's important to my business that I can remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used.

The value of my work does NOT lose its value upon publication. Instead, it becomes part of my business inventory – I can re-sell the rights to reproduce it again at a later date.

In a digital era, inventory is more valuable to an artist like myself than ever.

Thank you for your time and consideration – and I hope that The Next Great Copyright Act is not passed.

Sincerely,
Ana Benaroya