Barb Tourtillotte
ILLUSTRATION

7/15/15

U.S. Copyright Office

Re: Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am writing in regards to the Orphan Works bill that has raised its ugly head once again.

Copyright is the basis to my business. I am a 30 year veteran illustrator who licenses my artwork to manufacturers to place on their products. This is my livelihood, my blood, sweat and tears and what pays the electric bill.

When my copyright is infringed upon, everyone but me, the creator, profits.

Let me give you an example of my latest infringement. A large craft store bought products using my artwork from a factory and sold them in their stores. The artwork was lifted off the internet and my signature removed, the factory claiming it was their artwork. This kind of thing happens often with overseas factories and the flood gates for this thievery will be open wide in the US. if the Orphan Bill/New copyright Act is passed.

Lobbyists and corporate lawyers of this New Copyright Act have stated that once a work is pubished it no longer has commerical value. This is nonsense in the licensing world. I license a single image to multiple manufacturers for various products and with my copyright am able to do so in perpetuity.

Please protect our copyrights by retaining the current copyright law and not the NEW Copyright Act (Orphan Works) that is being considered.

The artists, musicians, writers and creatives of America thank you.

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