Brian Stanley
BHS Productions
Roanoke, VA 24015
Sunday, July 19, 2015

Dear Mrs. Rowland,

I am writing in regard to the proposed changes to Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works. As a writer and artist, I seek to make a living through copyrights, and ownership of works that I create. Therefore, I am writing to voice my profound disapproval for proposals such as the "Orphan Works Act", and others like it.

To put it frankly, far too much of the average American's life is now influenced or outright controlled by corporate powers. Big businesses already control what we eat, what we read, what we see, what we hear, and in many cases what we learn… and now they seek to control creative expression itself. This simply cannot stand.

The proposed reforms to the U.S. Copyright Act are not in the interests of the American people in the least. They would only serve to deliver yet more power into the hands of billionaires and corporate interests, stripping artists and writers like myself of their ability to enforce ownership of their works. It is already nearly impossible for the average citizen to defend themselves against wrongdoing in a case against a corporate entity. "Reforms" like the Orphan Works Act would only serve to further pervert a justice system that is already deeply biased in corporate favor.

The far-reaching effects of the proposed changes would be devastating to creative artists everywhere. By legalizing what is essentially large-scale theft of intellectual property, I can guarantee that thousands if not millions of lives and careers *will* be destroyed should these changes be implemented, and the consequences will be incalculable.

America has a rich history of empowering the creation of literature, music, art, theater, and more. Removing the automatic protection of the current copyright laws is not only morally wrong, but it is in violation of every American's First Amendment right to freedom of speech and expression. I therefor urge you in the strongest possible terms to leave the U.S. Copyright Law as it is, and summarily reject any attempt to pass legislation relating to the "Orphan Works Act" or similar proposals.

Thank you,
Brian Stanley