I am a professional artist and have been earning my living as an illustrator and fine artist for 40 years. I have a Masters degree in Medical Illustration from the John Hopkins University School of Medicine, and I have also been a professional watercolor painter and instructor for over twenty years.

I am very distressed by the pending legislation regarding the Next Great Copyright Act and Orphan Works. Artists such as myself depend on copyright protections currently provided for our art works. This new legislation will result in the loss of such protections, and therefore a loss of our income. In the digital age, theft of our images is easier than ever before, and we visual artists need to be protected by U.S. Copyright laws. My paintings do not lose their value upon publication and I want to know that only I can determine who has the right to use them for any purpose, including monetary gain. Having to register each and every image I create would be an unnecessary and costly drain on my time and resources, and allowing unregistered works to enter the public domain is grossly unfair.

I respectfully implore you to vote NO for this legislation. Please keep the current legislation in force, to protect visual art and artists, who are so vital a part of our culture and society.

Sincerely,
Alexis Lavine