July 6, 2015

Dear US Copyright Office Officials,

For more than a year Congress has been holding hearings for the drafting of a brand new US Copyright Act. At its heart is the return of Orphan Works. Twice, Orphan Works Acts have failed to pass Congress because of strong opposition from visual artists, spearheaded by the Illustrators Partnership.

"The Next Great Copyright Act" would replace all existing copyright law.

1. It would void my Constitutional right to the exclusive control of my work.
2. It would "privilege" the public's right to use my work without compensation to my business for that privilege.
3. It would pressure me to register my work with commercial registries, which will benefit the commercial registries more than my business.
4. It would orphan unregistered work, allowing orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.
5. It would allow others to alter my work and copyright these derivative works in their own names, confusing my brand and identity as an artist.

This law would directly affect my small business and encumber future possibilities of marketing my own artwork, creating market confusion among the general public and severely compromise my integrity as a working professional in my field.

While the US Copyright Act legislation needs to be updated for the new technological advances in this century, this legislation needs to so with the artist's entrepreneurial spirit intact. The law in it's current draft would destroy the livelihood of the visual artist community.

Please consider revising the current legislation to better protect rights of working artists and professionals creating original content.

Thank you,

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