To whom it may concern:

I was recently made aware of some sort of “orphan works” copyright act that may go into effect soon. I sincerely hope that this isn't the case; many artists already struggle with making money from their own work or to acquire proper credit thanks to thanks to various forms of art theft. In this day and age, it really is not all that difficult to discover artists any many people (most likely dishonest companies and profit seekers) wouldn't even bother to try and contact the original artist.

Whereas I do feel copyright laws do need some modernization, the Orphan Works Act is not the way to do it. Why is giving people the chance to steal artwork from other artists any different than say, telling people that plagiarism is okay, or cheating on tests, or lying about your accomplishments when joining a company or applying to college? Copyright laws should be a legal means for big names tobe able to go after bootleggers, and for lesser known artists having the ability to share their work with a sense of security that they will retain the rights to their work. Otherwise, people will just stop sharing their creations and our artistic culture will suffer for it. Please reconsider and don't pass this act. Don't let the art scammers and thieves win!