Benita Epstein Cartoons

211 Porterville Street, Pismo Beach, CA 93449

benita@benitaepstein.com www.benitaepstein.com 805/295-6192

July 23, 2015

Maria A. Pallante
Register of Copyrights and Director U.S. Copyright Office
U. S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante,

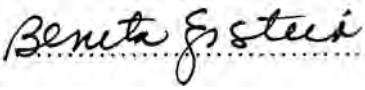
Since 1992 I've been a freelance cartoonist and humorous illustration . My cartoons appear in hundreds of magazines including The New Yorker, Readers Digest, Wall St. Journal and Harvard Business Review. My greeting cards are sold throughout North America and Australia. King Features Syndicate distributes my comic strip, Six Chix worldwide in dozens of newspapers. The National Cartoonists Society nominated me six times for artistic awards.

I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the Orphan Works bills.

I earn a substantial amount of money by licensing my cartoon images through my website: http://www.benitaepstein.com. There are over 700 cartoons displayed with more being uploaded. It is clearly posted there how to buy a cartoon and hundreds of people do. Each license is negotiated by me. Clients buy rights to license images for PowerPoints, newsletters, books, textbooks and merchandise.

I am afraid that giant internet companies could one day just take my images without any compensation to me. Even though my website images have my signature, © sign and website embedded in them, images can be used without my knowledge. Sometimes people just take the image and don't bother to contact me or they remove the © signs and signature.

Also, I cannot afford to register every single image I believe these internet libraries would charge in the future.

Sincerely,

Benita Epstein