SPUR OF THE MOMENT
The western cartoon fine art of Ben Crane

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US Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear US Copyright Office,

I am an Artist by trade and have been for over 34 years, having studied and apprenticed under many Art Directors before striking out on my own.

Copyright is the basis on which I do business, and infringing on my work is the same as stealing money out of my pocket. Copyrights are the products that I license.

My art is licensed on products. Copyrights allow me to certify that is is my own work, and also helps me deal with people who steal it and profit from it. Copyright gives me the ability to keep my work off of products and sites that I think are inappropriate and damaging to my reputation.

Everything that I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital age inventory is more valuable to me as an artist than ever before. Publishing my work significantly increases its value; if one manufacturer is successful with one of my works, other manufacturers will be eager to get on board. Increased value means increased income for me.

I am a prolific creator. If this act goes through I will be crippled financially; I will have to register every past and present work, which paperwork and cost will be prohibitive. This act removes the protection we have been given by the Constitution Article 1 Section 8. In short it will legalize the thefy of my property. Public interest will be deemed more important than my ability to make a living.

In no way do I welcome someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge.

Please stop these hearings, scrap the bill, and uphold the Constitution.

Respectfully,

Ben Crane