To Whom it May Concern,

I am a professional illustrator and have been successfully self employed in this field of work for the past fifteen years. I can personally attribute that success to the solid copyright laws of these United States of America which protect my copyrights as intellectual property as an artist and enable me to license those copyrights to other businesses as I see fit. Thereby enabling me to create one work of art and benefit from licensing of those rights to companies I wish to partner with, not just once, but multiple times. I can create one painting and license it to a puzzle company, turn around and license it to a greeting card company and the next day, license it for someone to use on their blog. I know where the work is going, I know who I am working with and control of my product remains where it should be. In my hands and mine alone.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. It's important to my business that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used. My work does not lose its value upon publication as has been suggested by various legal advisors for corporations such as Google. In fact, my copyrights are the products I license. This means that infringing my work is like stealing my money. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. Art and illustration are not natural resources that can be plucked like apples growing by the wayside by any passerby who fancies a taste. It takes years of daily practice, years of education and years of dedication to produce a single work of art.

I am strongly against the propsed orphan works and mass digitization reform. This will only serve to benefit large corporations and hurt the creative population of this country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amanda Pearl Robison
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