Dear Copyright Office,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the Orphan Works Copyright Act, and how important it is that it does **not** pass.

The right of artists to own what they make, and be compensated for the use of their creations, and control how their creations are used, is how artists make a living.

If those rights are taken away or made flexible, that undermines the entire art and design industry, and **takes away a source of income for thousands of Americans**.

The current copyright laws allow artists to make sure large organizations remunerate them if they print their artwork on merchandise. Here's a clip from a podcast featuring artist Jeral Tidwell outlining how copyrighting his art is how he makes his living:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKKOgOx9Zx8

There are also a number of other cases of art theft and appropriation where copyright laws as they are protect artists. For example, a Jewish cartoonist Ben Garrison one day found his art had been edited and rebranded for antisemitic purposes.

https://thenib.com/the-internet-s-most-trolled-cartoonist-91a92d9b7585

Copyright laws should enforce people's ownership of what they create. The Orphan Works Coyright Act would not just subvert, but cripple artists' ability to protect their creative intellectual property.

Please protect Creator Rights and do not allow Orphan Works Copyright Act to pass.

Regards,

Michelle Dee