To the Copyright Office

My name is Lynn Gaines- I have been a professional artist since 1989, working in the Social Expressions Industry both as an in-house artist and as a Freelancer.
The Copyright law that is up for legislation is not a good law for artists of any kind. For me personally, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. My copyrights are the products I license with those who contract to buy my work. This means that infringing my work is like stealing my money.
It's important to my businesses that I remain able to determine **voluntarily** how and by whom my work is used. If you aren't the creator of a piece of art, a song, a short story, you shouldn't get to steal it because you can, you should have to contract with the person who made it to acquire it just like any other "retail product". To have to register every sketch, doodle, Facebook post, writing, photograph, Instagram shot, musical score, jingle, etc. is laborious and unnecessary. If those who wish to use them would contact the Artisan involved and get permission to use/buy what they want -just like they'd have to do at any retail establishment- there would be no issue. The principle of not taking what doesn't belong to you works is an age old concept that every court understands and still carries on today.
My work is part of an inventory of products that I have created and will use and leverage both at the time of its creation and in the future of that product and it should not be up for grabs once it's done by anyone able to figure out a way to capture it, especially if they do not contract with me beforehand to do so, with compensation to me.
I do NOT welcome someone else monetizing my artwork in any form without my knowledge or consent.

I strongly urge that this Orphan Works Act be rejected, it doesn't have the best interests of Creative or their process at heart.
Thank you for your Consideration!

Sincerely, Lynn Gaines