July 20, 2015
US Copyright
Orphan Works

To whom it may concern,

I am a writer, and have been one for thirteen years. I published my first book through a publisher in 2013, but fought to regain my rights as my publisher had moved to publish the sequel through a third party without my permission, as that third party would then not be obligated to pay my royalties.

As someone trying to turn writing into a paying career, copyright is not an abstract issue that can simply be done away with. It is the basis on which my career rests. If anything happens that prevents me from enforcing the copyright of my creations, I have no way of generating income, as no one would have an incentive to pay for my work. They could simply get all of it for free.

In other words, my works do not lose value upon publication, as I alone control its value and the price for which it can be purchased. I very much see my writing career as a business, and introducing this new copyright act will destroy the value of all I create, and all that other artists create, in the eyes of our respective audiences.

Especially when the digital era makes my inventory even more valuable, as I no longer have to work through publishers. Ceding copyright to third parties for any reason these days have huge economic costs, and this new copyright act will force me to do so in a way that will inherently be to my detriment.

This basically comes down to robbing me of my income, and violates my basic, human right of owning what I create until such a time as I choose to give it away.

I have not and will not accept someone monetizing my work without my consent.

Sincerely,

Misha Gericke