Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am a freelance writer, editor and illustrator. I have been working professionally in these roles for over 30 years. I have worked in film, television, rock videos, videogames and comic books. I've won major industry awards including the Eisner and Harvey awards for my work, as well as having been nominated for the British Fantasy Award in 2009. Despite growing up poor in a very small town, art and writing has served as the means for me to build a better life for myself, and one by which I can support my four daughters.

In comics and independent publishing, we often refer to the "long tail" of value in our works. Ongoing evergreen sales, the licensing fees for T-shirt or ad usage, the strength of the Intellectual Property we design, create and promote on our own, is how the majority of independent authors and artists make their living as a career. It is that fiscal momentum that builds over time that allows us to support ourselves. To pay for our families needs. If we were simply attempting to live off of the immediate gains and revenues upon first publication, very few of us would be able to continue this path for longer than a year. It is the cumulative development and ownership of our IP and creations that allows us to make our way in this world. It is the reward and recognition for the hard work we put in day after day, month after month, year after year.

Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. It's a pillar on which my ability to conduct business rests. The idea that the law might be changed to endanger my ownership of my product is troubling, to say the least. It would function to remove my ability to earn and provide for myself and my children, an ability that has allowed me through my labors and creative efforts to gain a life beyond the poverty I was born into. The idea that I would no longer be able to benefit from my own labor seems contrary to the principles of the American Dream that I have believed in since I was a child. That if you work hard, you can achieve your dreams and success. The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to continue making a living as an artist. I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. It is vital to my business, my livelihood, and my ability to provide for my children that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used.

Sincerely,
Rantz A. Hoseley