To whom it may concern,

I am writing with great concern about the implementation of "The Next Great Copyright Act". In reading over the law, it is clear to me that it would:

1. replace all existing copyright law.
2. void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work.
3. "privilege" the public's right to use artists' work.
4. "pressure" artists to register their work with commercial registries.
5. "orphan" unregistered work.
6. make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.
7. allow others to alter your work and copyright these "derivative works" in their own names.
8. would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

The demand for copyright "reform" has come from large Internet firms. Their business models involve supplying the public with access to other people's copyrighted work. Their problem has been how to do this legally and *without paying artists*.

The Copyright Office acknowledges that this will cause special problems for visual artists but concludes that we should still be subject to orphan works law.

The "Next Great Copyright Act" would go further than previous Orphan Works Acts. The proposals under consideration include:

1. *The Mass Digitization* of our intellectual property by corporate interests.
2. *Extended Collective Licensing*, a form of socialized licensing that would replace voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients.
3. *A Copyright Small Claims Court* to handle the flood of lawsuits expected to result from orphan works infringements.

As a self-employed artist for over thirty years, I have worked very hard to learn the skills and techniques that allow me to make a living at my craft. I am writing to ask that you reconsider the direction of this law. Artists are small businesses that often struggle to make a living. It takes years, and often decades, to study and learn the artistic skills needed to produce their art. The rights to their original, creative works should remain with the originator.