To the Catherine Rowland, the person appointed to reading these, or just someone that drew the short straw on reading through the list of complaints,

Hi! My name is Ross, and I'm trying to get used to drawing and develop this skill. One day I'd like to make a living off of my art and hope to be successful to have a certain amount of notoriety and even capital from my works. And I'm writing because I and lots of other people as you have probably seen are afraid of the new Orphan Works bill that suddenly sprang up out of nowhere.

I have done some reading just to make sure I wasn't going in hearing only one side of a frightened crier and I believe understand the intent of the law in regards to orphan works (I'm not all that familiar with legal things, I'm from a family that deals in numbers, not words). What I understand is that the Orphan Works bill seeks to specify certain guidelines groups may undertake to acquire lost or abandoned intellectual properties whose owners have gone bust. That seems fair as there are abandoned IPs in the world but there is an issue in concerns with independent content creators.

I've been taught by a lot of my peers that artists are used to the idea that the content we create is inherently ours; because we made it, it's our IP. Through owning our IP we also make a living by selling licenses to it or selling the copyright outright (it occurs to me you have been doing this for years and I should stop saying things you already know). Now it looks like if we want our works to remain ours we will need to jump through new hoops and mountains of paperwork just to make sure no one steals our hard work for personal gain.

I have no issue with this bill and only a minor stake in it at this point. All I wish to do is ask that you define the rights of the independent content creator a little more clearly, please? We just want to do what we love, and be able to eat.

Thank you for your time and sorry if this was an eyesore.

Sincerely,

Ross