Pat N. Lewis
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the "Orphan Works Act" and/or any changes to copyright law that would further limit my rights to artistic works that I have created and currently own as part of my livelihood.

I have been supporting myself as an illustrator for over a decade now, and am currently serving as President of the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators. As such, my peers and I rely on the income generated by our work not just at the time of creation, but throughout our careers. To take this right from us and allow others to use our work without permission or monetary compensation would be tantamount to theft.

Frankly, I'm disappointed that such a debate is even necessary. Rarely a month goes by that I don't hear of a fellow illustrator having his or her work stolen and re-used without permission. Make no mistake, this is almost always so a larger corporation can profit at the expense of the "little guy," the independent artist. The one upside to these situations—the only thing keeping things slightly fair—is that legal recourse is still available to those artists. Please don't side with the thieves on this one. Please respect the hard work, the artistic contributions, and the intellectual property of our nation's visual artists.

Thank you,

Pat N. Lewis