Hello,

I am a relatively small artist from Utah. I have been working for a few years as a freelance artist. I am worried about the Orphan Works Copyright Act and how it will affect my current living status.

I make money primarily on commission. This means that my income is inconsistent and spotty. If I don't have work coming in, I don't eat for the night. I've found a few ways to give me a more consistent pay, by letting my commissioners and fans make monthly donations in exchange for higher resolution drawings. However, if any of my patrons decide to post the art to other media outlets (such as Twitter or Facebook), with the Orphan Works Copyright Act others can legally distribute and modify my work without my approval. This will allow them to make money off my work, off my hard hours I put into every piece and every piece I've ever done, and I have no say in any of it. I can't eat when other people are stealing the money I rightfully deserve.

Artists are people too. It saddens me to see them constantly stepped on and to see them seen as being disposable. Artists need to afford to live, and if they make their primary living off it, they need as much money as they possibly can. Being an artist is hard enough as it is, but if this bill gets passed being an artist will never be a viable career choice. Why bother creating content if others can steal it for profit?

Please, do not let this bill come to fruition. I love creating content for others to enjoy, but I can't realistically do that if my art is at risk of being stolen. For the sake of every artist in America, don't pass this bill.

Sincerely,
Nanda Scott