July 17, 2015

RE: 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitization/New U.S. Copyright Act

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rita Poore. I am an artist in Delaware and practiced my profession for 5 years now. After years of instruction, workshops, educational sessions and materials, I have been selected for 4 juried shows and sold many of my paintings to both individuals and corporations. I work in watercolor and in multi-media. This is my job.

Proposed changes in the U.S. Copyright Act will affect my livelihood and my potential earnings as an artist as well any other artist. Our creations are OURS. Copyright Law is not an abstract legal issue. It is the basis on which our businesses rest. Our copyrights are the products we create and then license.

The proposed changes to the Copyright Law infringe on our work. It's basically stealing our potential income. Everything we create is part of our business inventory. The right to determine how and by whom our work is used is vitally important to our businesses and our reputations as an artist.

Our work does NOT lose its value upon publication and should not be available for use by the public unless the artist has been compensated. In the digital era, inventory of our creations is more valuable to artists than ever before. This is particularly true for the artist just starting out. These changes in the Copyright Law make it possible for a corporation, business, anyone to monetize any work for their profit without knowledge or consent by the artist.

I'm the profit margins of internet companies would greatly increase if they could just use anything they see published without having to pay for the creative work that went into something the companies see as potentially making them money.

Artists do not usually have large law firms overseeing their rights. Frankly, we as artists don't have that kind of money. Internet/Digital companies do. Please don't make artistic endeavors fodder for large corporation while the small business owner/artist works very hard to make it, only to have no control over their products.

Thank You.