To Copyright Office concerning copyright for visual works.

As a professional artist I am deeply concerned with the orphaned works act. By passing this bill, it would take away my right to control my work and receive the income that I need from; licensing, prints and subsidary rights from the work I create. With out these extra incomes from the original work that I personally create could possibly put me out of business.

From what I understand this is what would happen:

"The Next Great Copyright Act" would replace all existing copyright law.

It would void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work.

It would "privilege" the public's right to use our work.

It would "pressure" you to register your work with commercial registries.

It would "orphan" unregistered work.

It would make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.

It would allow others to alter your work and copyright these "derivative works" in their own names.

It would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

Will you let some large corporate lobbiest take away the right of thousands of creative individuals to earn an honest living ? Without our copyrights it is tantamount to theft of the creators personal work. I can't stress enough how much we depend on our copyrights for negotiations and our livelyhood.

Art as a sustainable living is important to artists and also the visual world. From small scale to large, without our copyrights something intrinsic to humanity is lost as artists have to find other means of income. If artists are not able to devote their thoughts and inspration to their creative work, this copyright law will once again place artists in lowest regard by "Starving them out". Artists works are in every aspect of our lives; objects, media, and pure visual stimulation.

Please, please, please hear the needs of all artists in this country and not not pass this new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Pat Lewis ~ full time professional artist!