Dear Copyright Office,

I am a self employed artist. I have worked as an illustrator and artist for over thirty-five years. Since graduating with honors from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, I have earned my income creating and selling images commissioned by publishers and works I generated with the intent to sell both physically and as intellectual properties. I resell my images nationally and internationally for all sorts of uses including book reproductions, prints, and many other licensed products. A portion of my income depends upon the reselling of my intellectual properties. I control the manner and quality of how the art I have worked so hard to produce is seen in the market place. I can negotiate the percentage of revenue I can expect from the uses available to me. I depend upon the protection of the existing copyright laws to allow me to sustain my livelihood and help provide autonomous creativity.

The proposed changes to Copyright Law under the Orphaned Works Law would have removed my ability to control my creations. It would have forced me to register to private organizations who would hold digital records of my art. As I understand this change, I would need to register my copyright with your office and register with a private concern or concerns any unregistered works. This means I would pay for more copyright protection while having to allow digital access to my work by a corporate entity. It would have created even more opportunities for infringement due to the reliance upon others to protect my creations, taking more money out of my income while offering me less actual protection.

This proposed law sought to enhance the coffers of large digital storage companies who desired to make a profit from the creative labors of others without compensation and inhibit the direct sale of intellectual properties by their creators and heirs.

While the Supreme Court recognizes corporations as individuals under the law, they are NOT individuals regarding expression— Individuality is impossible in a corporate climate where stock holders decide an outcome. Granting non-creator non-persons access to an individual's creative voice, while allowing control of how, where, and when it may be used, will prove to be damaging to creativity. It will ultimately create a vampire industry that steals the lifeblood of creativity from true creators. Please oppose this horrible movement.

Sincerely,

Jody A. Lee
www.jodylee.org