July 17, 2015

To The US Copyright Office:

DO NOT change the US copyright law to reflect anything written that is in anyway similar to the Orphan Works Bill of 2008. According to the constitution, I have the the exclusive right to my work to my creative work, any visual art, aside from Fair Use exclusions. The rights to my own work is a source of income for myself as a visual artist and a writer. The theory for this law came from one law professor. His entire research is based off a one-day seminar, written by 8 law students in attendance, without ANY understanding of how commercial artists work or support themselves. Lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once our work has been published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the public. This is not an honest representation of the lives of commercial artists. Our work does NOT loose value upon publication! Artists like myself earn much of their income through royalties. We license our copyrights as a form of income!

The changes proposed by Orrin Hatch and Patrick Leahy to revive the Orphan Works Act of 2008 and base future Copyright law on it will substantially hurt my ability to support myself as an active illustrator, designer and writer.

This proposal was not submitted to the copyright office by practicing Artists. NOT A ONE! Allow artist's to testify if you want to represent our interests.

THIS PROPOSAL IS THEFT OF SERVICES! Article 1.8 of the Constitution provides protection for our work. In order to support myself through my own work I would have to register everything I do. That is impossible to comply with!
If a company currently needs intellectual property for their businesses, they either must produce it themselves or pay a person who has devoted their livelihood to creating it. If they want a story of picture or song or creation someone else made they must pay that person for their work. Anything else is stealing.

The public interest in my work is not more important than me making a living. This is a proposal to legalize the theft of private property!!! I, and only I, should have the right to make a profit off of my own creative property.

DO NOT change the US copyright law to the benefit of everyone else BUT the creators!

Sincerely,

Julie Rowan-Zoch
Fort Collins, Colorado