Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an illustrator in Ann Arbor Michigan and I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed changes to the US Copyright Act, often referred to as the Orphan Works Bill.

I am an illustrator at the University of Michigan but I also create a lot of freelance art as well. I specialize in biological and scientific illustration and my background includes bachelor's degrees in both biology and art as well as master's degrees from the University of Oregon and the University of Hartford. I have published works through such major institutions such as Harvard University, Oxford University, University of Michigan, St. Martin's Press, Sleeping Bear Press, McCann Erickson, California Parks Service, MIT Press, Arizona Highways, Weyerhaeuser Co. and many more. This body of work is published and reused on a regular basis and I hold the copyright to all of it under the current copyright laws. This provides me with some much needed income. Anyone who uses my artwork without my explicit permission is taking income from me, in essence, stealing from me.

I plan to continue freelance illustration for many more years and it is imperative that I am able to control the copyright of my artwork going into the future. I must be able to voluntarily determine how and by whom my artwork is used or it will have a negative impact on my business. The work that I produce is a concept, created by me, that does not lose its value after it's initial publication. Nor does it lose value going into the future. It is intellectual property that I hold and is part of my business inventory. In today's world of instant digital

communication and reproduction it is easy to lose control of intellectual property and maintaining that control is imperative to any business. The proposed changes to the language of the US Copyright act will make the determination of who owns artistic intellectual property ambiguous and allow larger interests to seize control of the work, essentially stealing revenue from small entrepreneurs such as myself.

In conclusion if the proposed changes to the US Copyright Act are adopted it will have a negative impact on my business and the businesses of countless artists around the United States. The profession of illustration and art is difficult enough without having an extra source of income taken away from us. On a larger scale the strength of our nation depends on the health of small businesses and taking from from the pockets of independent artists will be just one more crack in our economic foundation. Please vote no on the Orphan Works Bill.

Thank You

John Megahan
2050 Chalmers Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104