To Whom it May Concern, In regards to the proposed Orphan Works –

My name is Jennifer L Nilsson and I have been working as an artist for the past 8 years. When I began it was only as a hobby, it was a way to make a little extra money from my artwork to tuck away for a rainy day. I am now working full-time as a licensed artist, represented by an agent and working closely with manufacturers. My artwork has become my livelihood – the money goes to feed my family, pay my bills, and put any extra into savings.

I work EXTREMELY hard creating my style which is now recognizable to many of my customers and to my fan-base. I put in long hours of learning new techniques, taking my ideas and sketching them out on paper, working with layers of watercolor and colored pencils, pen and inks, to create each and every image. I put money into my art supplies to be able to create.

By allowing the Orphan Works Bill to pass, you will be stripping me of my time, talent, and money and handing my images over to the general public to snag from the web and use in any way they desire to make a profit. A profit which they did not earn. With images that they did not create.

My artwork, and the artwork of EVERY visual artist, would no long be unique to our skills, no longer recognizable as our unique styles, in essence it will kill our "brand."

I imagine you put in long hours at your job. It takes your time and energy away from your family. Your job and the work the YOU do, enables you to pay your bills and provide for your loved ones. What if at the end of your pay period, a stranger comes along and decides that the pay you worked so hard for should be up for grabs. They didn't put in the hours, they didn't but in the effort, but they should profit from your time. This is the same thing that all visual artists will face should the Orphan Works pass.

I implore you to do away with the Orphan Works for once and for all. Allow artists to maintain ALL rights to their creations from the minute it is created.

Please do not take away our rights.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jennifer L Nilsson