Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am an artist an art teacher and consultant in four elementary schools in San Diego.

I write curriculum for art lessons that are taught to elementary school age children by volunteers. I am hired by the individual school for the creativity and uniqueness of the process I have developed. Each new art lesson requires a minimum of 30 hours of research and development. The thought that I would readily give this away without copyright protection is alarming.

I have been writing and developing my program for 25 years. Keeping my lessons unique and for use with my art program is how I earn my livelihood. I am paid for this hard work and I feel the materials I develop belong to me. Lessons I developed a decade ago are still being used in my art program.

This is of deep concern. I would like to quote a fellow artist, Eric Shanower, who has stated the case for protection perfectly:

"Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. The idea that the law might be changed to endanger my ownership of my product is troubling, to say the least. It would be like stealing my earning ability. The idea that I would no longer be able to benefit from my own labor seems contrary to the ideas and ideals of the United States of America. The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to continue making a living as an artist. I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. **It is vital to my business that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used**."

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kane-Murrell

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