Dear Committee on 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitation Act

I am an artist who feels strongly that the rights to the images created by myself and others should be automatic and that I should be the sole owner of these images. This right must be protected as fundamental in our society of digital companies seeking to use creative images without permission or payment. An artist should have an implied copyright to his creations and should not be forced to register them. No entity should be able to use images without consulting and obtaining the consent of the creator.

In this digital age, the rights of the individual artist can be easily abused and ignored by entities whose main goal is to make money using images without payment to the creator. These images provide the livelihood for many artists and regardless of whether they do or not, they are the property of the artist and should be honored as such.

We must continue to protect these basic rights, as we have seen how much our society has changed due to technology and the digital proliferation and transmission of image. It has become easier and easier for non-creators to use the product of those who create and this act would encourage basically legalize the theft of artistic images.

I know that you are giving this issue much thought and I appreciate the opportunity to give you my opinion.

Sincerely,

Karen Seabrook