Jamie Hogan

www.jamiehogan.com

7-20-15

U.S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as an award winning professional illustrator of over 35 years whose work has appeared in publications, books and advertisements. I illustrated Rickshaw Girl, which was on the New York Public Library's 100 Great Book of the Last 100 Years, as well as many other children's books. I am a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the Maine Writers and Publisher's Alliance.

I write this letter with regards to a proposed law that would replace all existing copyright law; a law designed to supply the general public with access to other people's copyrighted work with the clear intention of making it legally possible to use work without paying the artists. This proposed law comes under the guise of a "reform" though the real intent is very clear, allowing the internet companies to stock their databases with our images, by either forcing the artist to hand over the work as 'registered' works or having unregistered work treated as orphans and copyrighting them as "derivative works". For some reason, while acknowledging that this will cause special problems for

visual artists, the Copyright Office has concluded that the artists should still be subject to orphan work laws.

This is robbery. I cannot make a living as a visual artist if all of my work automatically is available for free.

For professional artists whose livelihoods depend on what we create and the agreements we make to determine how the art is used, this is not an abstract legal issue. Our work does not lose value upon publication. Our published work becomes part of our business inventories, assets even more valuable to us in the digital age. The current "reforms" in the newly proposed law would in effect waive the responsibility of a potential user to find the copyright owner and redefine an orphaned work as any work by any artist that anyone finds 'sufficiently' hard to find. It's a convenient loophole to exempt the responsibility of the potential user from proper searching and void every rights holder's exclusive right to his/her own property, a right stated in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Independent artists are finding it hard enough to earn a decent living without the further erosion of potential earnings as imagined in these morally and ethically corrupt proposals by those who have consistently devalued creative and intellectual property, culture, art and the artists who create it. This proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be dismissed as the outright robbery that it is.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hogan