Addressing the Orphan Works Copy Right Act.

As an art enthusiast myself, I would like to address the importance of the current copyright law for artists and illustrators all over America. For individuals who make a LIVING out of these activities, stripping this away from them would only deprive them of their creative genius and essentially equate their hard work to free labor. An artist who depends on this to make a living should not be pressured into appeasing corporate businesses if they are already financially stable. If a piece comes from an ARTIST'S mind then it is THEIR property. It should not be made into "public domain" ESPECIALLY because it exposes them to an entirely larger array of art theft. Essentially, by passing this law, theft is being legalized. A musician does not have to forfeit their music to the public if they have written it, and an author's words are heavily guarded under the sanctity of plagiarism. Why is it then that an artist has to give up their rights? This is an outright abuse of content creators who should have full authority over what they create.

Times are changing and modern equipment has made it much easier for artists to share their art with the public. But they are comfortable with doing so because they are legally protected. Imagine walking into the Metropolitan Museum of Art and having consumers pick these pieces off their stands and using them for their OWN commercial gain. It would be illegal because it is essentially being STOLEN from a museum. The internet is our modern day museum and to allow anyone person to do whatever they desire with our works is not fair to say the least.

Just because an artist submits their art online does not mean that it is for the public to use. If that were the case, then stealing automobiles would be acceptable as well. "Well, they parked it in a public area for all to see. It's like they WANTED us to steal it." This mentality does not apply to real life situations and some forget that artists and illustrators are real life people with families to support. They are doing what they love and are equally contributing to society by sharing their creative genius. A spectator does not have to OWN the piece to fully appreciate it. Do not discourage artists and young students from fulfilling their dreams or pursuing their talents. Please take this into consideration.

Sincerely, a fellow art enthusiast.