To The US Copyright Office:

The changes proposed by Orrin Hatch and Patrick Leahy to revive the Orphan Works Act of 2008 and base future Copyright law on it will substantially hurt my commercial business as the creator of children's books, and a children's animated series. It is ill conceived and basically makes theft of my work legal. This law proposal is based on fewer that 215 letters submitted to the copyright office and **NONE by practicing Artists.**

The works I create are based off royalties and profit from direct sales of my work. I license my work (my assets) that I have poured education money and time into in order to support myself as well as other artists I subcontract to help me. At times I help to create hundreds to thousands of sketches and paintings for an individual project. There is also a great amount of time invested in writing scripts, supportive materials and market research associated with launching an artistic property. If this law is enacted then I would be required to register every single sketch, drawing, painting, script, treatment, outline etc right down to a 10 second thumbnail drawing past present, or future in order to protect myself and my business. I should not be compelled to turn over my assets to competitors any more than FORD motor company should have to relinquish theirs to another car company. THIS PROPOSAL IS THEFT OF SERVICES! Article 1.8 of the Constitution provides protection for our work.

If a company needs intellectual property for their businesses, they either must produce it themselves or pay a person who has devoted their livelihood to creating it. If they want a story or picture or song or creation someone else made they must pay that person for their work. Anything else is stealing. You would legitimize criminal activities and make it impossible for me to make a living causing a serious financial problem for my family. This law will not create a work environment that will encourage more innovation, instead, it will only stifle creative work by individuals.

The public interest in my work is not more important than me making a living.

DO NOT change the US copyright law to reflect anything written that is in anyway similar to the Orphan Works Bill of 2008

Sincerely,

Stephen Hodges
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