My name is Selin Atay. I am an artist and visual art is how I and many other artists like me make a living, how many young artists hope to do so in the future. Posting our art is how we can participate in the global economy and how we can even be hired to do work for other venues. The only way that can still be a reality is if the Orphaned Works Copyright Act, or similar proposals like it, do not come to be. We can only support ourselves, share our progress, and share our achievements if our work remains protected by law.

By changing current copyright law to the Orphaned Works Copyright Act, you effectively legalize what many corporations already do. It allows them to exploit artists without consequence. These artists are then unable to make a living on their own work because suddenly someone else has monetized it. If the artist cannot make a living, the artist will not even be able to register their artwork for copyright. To register with a for-profit business on every piece of work alone already would become incredibly costly. Artists will become too fearful to share or even make art, lest they be robbed of it and unable to do anything about it.

The Orphaned Works Copyright Act robs content creators of what is theirs, what they have made.

More than just a concern of money, it becomes a matter of being robbed of a piece of the artist's soul. We work very hard and we deserve for that to be respected. Our skills come from years of practice, training, and learning. It is not fair to diminish our efforts or cheapen them like this.

As an artist I can say that for me being robbed of my artwork, the right to even call it my own, is no different than a parent being robbed of their child. My art is that important to me and it is that important to every artist who makes art their life and livelihood.

I'm imploring you to do the right, moral, and ethical thing. Please don't allow our work to be stolen from us. Do not underestimate what a loss of confidence can result in. Think carefully about the number of people and jobs on the line that are at the mercy of this decision.