I am a published cartoonist, illustrator and author. I have been doing this for decades. It is how I earn my living.

I've written and illustrated 11 titles in the "1-2-3 Draw" series from Peel Productions and two books for F&W Publishers. "Draw Crazy Creatures" and "Draw Awesome Animals" are published and distributed by their IMPACT Books division.

I own the copyrights to my work under current law, and that is a large part of how I earn a living.

To me, the current copyright law is essential to keep in place. Changing it would have an extremely negative impact on my ability to control my art's use as well as my ability to eat and put a roof over my head.

It is of extreme importance that I am able to control the use of art that I create. I do not want other people infringing on those rights, and using my art for their own purposes - which quite often I might not agree with or support.

Right now, I own the rights to anything at the moment it comes out of my hand, which I should. I created it. When it is published, it increases in value. When it is used by other parties without my consent, its value is decreased dramatically and other people profit from it illegally.

I am strongly opposed to the changes that are being suggested in the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization recommendations, and am urging that it not be put into effect. The ripple effects of this on myself and other artists could be catastrophic for us.

We need to keep the current law as it is, and allow all artists to retain complete control of anything that they create.

Thank you,
Steve Barr