Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am a graphic designer and a freelance cartoonist and illustrator and have been one almost 30 years.

I am currently working on a graphic novel and I plan to self-publish and hope one day my work has will be licensed to magazines and television. In addition I draw illustrations and write for publication both in books and online. I am a 1985 graduate of The Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art. I make my living in the arts and wish to expand.

Licensing my works for publication is how I plan to earn my livelihood in the arts. Other entities pay me for the right to publish what I produce.

I hope to have my works published and now in this digital age, the copyright protection of my own work is more important than ever before.

Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. It's a pillar on which my ability to conduct business rests. The idea that the law might be changed to endanger my ownership of my product is troubling, to say the least. It would be like stealing my earning ability. The idea that I would no longer be able to benefit from my own labor seems contrary to the ideas and ideals of the United States of America.

The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to continue making a living as an artist. I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. It is THEFT! It is vital to my artistic and future economic growth that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennella