Dear Copyright Office,

I have heard about the Orphan Works Act. What I have to say is that I am purely dissappointed in this act as this violates an artists rights to the fullest extent. If this act were to pass it will cause massive economic damage to the art community both on and offline. I myself am a struggling artist that needs the money from the commissions I create just to survive everyday as my own minimum wage job (grocery store) does not even pay me enough to afford my bills. By stating that an artist's work cannot belong to them and that corporations can profit off others work without permission or split of profit is in fact CRIMINAL. It is the same as going into a store and taking anything you want off the shelf and walk out the store without paying for it, there is no difference than what you are stating in this new Act. It is downright theft and criminal activity.

Another issue is forcing artists to register their work. Those registries have no part in the time, effort, care, dedication, and love put into the works that an artist spends hours creating. When an creates a work ONLY THEY ARE ENTITLED TO THAT WORK, THAT INCLUDES IN SEllING THE WORK AND DISPLAYING THE WORK FOR EXPOSURE. Copyright is important to artists as copyright is what gives a name to the artist behind the work and it is a major liability to protect that work from being stolen and sold for profit without the artists knowledge or consent. This act will cause massive chaos and a negative uproar/backlash against your office as well as U.S congress. Less we forget that the internet is a international tool and by proposing this act, you are also infringing on the rights of other countries as well, the U.S has no business in forcing their policies on other countries.

If this bill is passed, I myself will take all the precautions I can to protect my work and to ensure that only those I give permission to will be allowed to use and that my work is for my profit only. My work is my life, by forcing this OWA into our system, you are essentially destroying my life (and many others) and ripping away the love and dedication that was thrown in these works. Art is something of freedom and self expression, it is not something you can just take away. I will fight against this bill tooth and nail in order to protect my job.

If you truly care about the people of this country and care about the economic stability, the provision of jobs, and the educational opportunities that the art world generates, you will NOT allow this act to pass. Please remember that behind every painting, picture, photo, song, animation, and so on is a living human being behind it. Don't make this mistake.

- An artist

P.S

"Art is Freedom, Do Not Enslave It"