To The Copyright Office and all Law-Makers Concerned,

I am a professional artist writing about the catastrophic effect the Orphaned Works Copyright act will have on my life and the life of my family. Though not perfect, the current copyright law is a better protection to the livelihood of artists like myself. The fact that my work has copyright protection the moment I create it prevents others from stealing my property and ideas. And I can see, clear as day, that the Orphaned Works Act would legalize this stealing.

Certainly, you wouldn't conscientiously pass such a law that could destroy my business and legalized thievery. That is why I'm writing you to implore you to stop this law from going forward. Because the law is abstract, only an artist who understands their own business could immediately recognize that this law would void my constitutional right to own my own work.

It is already very difficult to make a living as an artist. As I work for years to make a book or a short film, I often share works in progress to excite my audience and draw attention. And because art is a time-intensive, laborious process; to have to register every single drawing, photo, or even finished piece before I've even made a profit would be an expensive, logistical nightmare - it could cost some artist years of time and a fortune to meet the demands. That said, I abide by the current copyright law with no reservations.

The large internet firms and their legal allies are banking on that. It seems that they hope to make it so difficult for artists to legally register their work that they can have free-reign to strip us of our current rights to work our steal that work (by altering it slightly) and using it for their own profit. When a thief walks into someone else's property and claims orphaned items (which he feels he must need more than the owner) as his own, this is obviously illegal and morally wrong. Yes, this thief could alter the item and sell it as if it were his own, but his profit is based on lies and lawlessness.

Again, I'm trusting that whoever reads this letter is an honest upholder of the law. I'm trusting in your strong moral fiber and your desire to protect economic rights of the millions of artists in the United States, which is the country that often protects the rights of the entire world.

If I have successfully described the problem, I trust you will not let this law go forward. Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Scott Wiser
Artist, Animator, U.S. Citizen