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

I am a freelance graphic designer, digital artist and fine art painter. I have been a professional artists for the past eleven years. I am a 1983 graduate of Parsons School of Design. I make my living as an artist in my business. My work has won awards and my work was acknowledged by the Mayor of Houston and by local online organizations in Myrtle Beach, SC as best artist of the area.

Now in this digital age, the copyright protection of my own work is more important than ever before, licensing my works for publication is how I plan to earn my livelihood in additional to selling of original works. Other entities pay me for the right to publish what I produce. My works do not lose their value upon first publication. To the contrary, over time my works can (and have been) licensed in a variety of ways: new US editions, digital editions, foreign editions, separate works collected into a single edition, adaptations into other forms and media, etc. Works I created decades ago continue to generate income from royalties and new licensing deals. All of these forms of licensing my works are part of my business plan.

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 vital to my business that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used.

Sincerely,

William H. Miller
whimdesigns@gmail.com

www.williamhmiller.com

William H. Miller Studios & Fine Art
714 Main Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

William H. Miller Studios & Fine Art
2101 Winter Street
Studio 17B
Houston, TX 77007