To the Copyright Office,

I'm writing to chime in with the countless other visual artists and photographers in voicing opposition to the new Orphan Works bill. As an illustrator, painter, and concept artist in the videogame industry, I'm one of many whose livelihood depends entirely on my ability to be paid for licenses to use my work. This includes both the creation of new art, and more importantly, the licensing of older work that a client or corporation may have found online.

This new bill gives anyone the ability to take one of mine, or anyone else's images found online and use it without any due diligence in tracking down the original creators. It robs us of ownership of our own intellectual property, and hits right at our only source of income. It also robs us of any control over how or when our images are used, so it becomes not only a financial issue, but one of the control of our branding and image. Even more troubling is the 'mass digitization' and 'extended collective licensing' by corporate interests that is being proposed- it is not any corporation's business to handle mine or anyone else's property without explicit permission from the original creator.

Please reconsider the contents of this bill. It is an endorsement of theft, taking the valuable property of individual creators and handing it over to large companies, without any compensation or even notice that our work is being stolen. The fact that the copyright office has recommended setting up small courts to deal with the inevitable lawsuits is proof enough that you all know this is wrong.

-Sidharth Chaturvedi