To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to a Copyright Orphan Works Act being considered and voted on by Congress on Thursday, July 22, 2015.

My name is Spencer Erickson. I work as an Art Director for a company in SE Idaho, and I also do freelance design in my spare time. I am married to Jaidyn Erickson who is a freelance illustrator. Both my wife and I have been artists for 6+ years doing freelance design and illustration. We both hold Bachelors degrees in design and illustration from Brigham Young University - Idaho. I was awarded a student Emmy award for design work I did for a motion graphic about the CIT major at BYU – Idaho.

I want to make it clear that I do not support this Copyright Act. It will greatly and negatively affect the life of my family and I. This is not an abstract legal issue for me; it is the basis on which my wife's and my freelance business rests. Our copyrights are the products we license, and that means that infringing our work is no different than stealing our hard earned money. It is paramount to our business that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used. Our work DOES NOT lose its value once published. Everything we create becomes part of our business inventory. In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists and creative than ever before. We NEED to be able to protect our work.

Thank you so much for your time, and I pray that you take my letter and the thousands of other letters from artists into consideration when voting on this act.

Sincerely,

Spencer Erickson