My letter to Copyright Office of the United States,

I'm disappointed that the voices of so few have the chance to change the fate of millions of Americans concerning the changes to the Orphan Works Act of 2008 proposed by Orrin Hatch and Patrick Leahy.

As a freelance illustrator I rely on my ability to re-sell my own work as a substantial part of my yearly income. I sell second, third, forth, and so on - rights to my artwork to businesses around the world. Some of these sales are through established stock sources but most are direct sales between my clients and I. Retaining my intellectual property has allowed me to negotiate for higher fees overall when my clients choose to purchase longer usages that span over many years or in perpetuity. This new legislation will take away my ability to command such fees in the future.

The threat of legal action is what currently holds our fragile market together in the trust we place in our clients and vice versa. This new legislation would tip the balance of power so greatly in favor of large corporations as to send individual contractors back to a time where the idea of owning an idea -wasn't an idea. Our current copyright laws have helped the little guy rise to middle class - giving us recourse in cases of infringement. Side stepping the checks and balances will be too easy if this proposal passes.

THIS PROPOSAL IS THEFT OF SERVICES! Article 1.8 of the Constitution provides protection for our work.

The public interest in my work is not more important than me making a living.

Please - DO NOT change the US copyright law to reflect anything written that is in anyway similar to the Orphan Works Bill of 2008

Thank you,
Will Terry