July 19, 2015

Dear Maria A. Pallante, Register of Copyrights and Director

As an aspiring artist looking to break into the industry, the Orphan Works Copyright Act disturbs me greatly. The language of the policy strips the creators of their constitutional right to exclusive control of their own works. Under Orphan Works, creators would have to register every bit of work they want protected with for-profit registries, otherwise their "orphaned" property would become open season to every infringer who would want use or edit them without consent. Even the term "orphan" stirs up problematic connotations because every piece of intellectual property has a source, or else the intellectual property would not exist in the first place; therefore, a work should not be "orphaned" and deemed public domain by default just because the creator does not throw money at the right people for its protection. Basically, the Orphan Works Copyright Act lawfully sanctions plagiarism—a type of fraud already widely despised among many respectable organizations. Because plagiarism leads to black marks and expulsion from education institutions, because plagiarism destroys the trust in artist-client contracts, because plagiarism obliterates careers and livelihoods, please dissolve the Orphan Works Copyright Act. Please protect us creators from such infringement that borders on outright theft.

Sincerely,

Tania Hwang