

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Orphan Works
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To Whom it May Concern:

In the internet age it is often difficult to determine what artist, photographer, videographer or writer created works that are posted on sites that may or may not intentionally strip copyright metadata from their works. It seems that no artistic or literary masterpiece is sacrosanct. With computer cut-and-paste technology, anybody can claim virtually any artistic creation as their own. All too many times I have seen this happen to my own photography.

This poses a disaster for anyone who depends upon the copyrighted value of their work for future revenue. Orphan Works legislation is a thinly-disguised theft of the production of our nation's greatest creative minds for the benefit of corporations that would be worth nothing without the value of that creativity. Once copyright data is stripped from an image or a manuscript, it can be difficult or impossible for any future user to make "reasonable efforts" to track down the creator. Hence, that entity can simply appropriate the image/text/lyrics with no compensation to the creator. That is not the intent of U.S. copyright law nor of any moral equivalent.

I urge the administration of President Obama to fight for the survival of all artists and writers in the United States by opposing any weakening of existing copyright law. This is not just an issue of struggling artists trying to survive, it is also vital to our national economy. When foreign thieves steal our films, photography, books and other creativity, it costs us billions, maybe even trillions in our balance of payments.

When asked how to pay for health care reform, copyright protection is one solid step in the right direction. Licensing of intellectual property is money created by United States citizens that should stay with its United States producers. I am happy to pay taxes on my income from these sources as long as I have income to protect!

Sincerely,

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