This letter is in regard to the proposed Copyright law bouncing around Congress.

There is no such thing as "orphaned" work. Just because someone cannot establish where a work came from, it does not mean that it is orphaned. It is more akin to kidnapping, and all it means is that someone stole the work and passed it around without bothering to give credit where credit was due.

If an individual or corporate interest cannot establish where the work came from, that's too bad. Ignorance is not a defense. They can pay the money to have someone else create something similar or do the leg work to find out who created the work they desire, so that person can be properly and fairly compensated for their time, energy, money and creativity--that is assuming that the individual wishes to sell the rights.

It is really worrisome that rights of individuals such as myself, who struggle to just get by doing what we love, could be undermined in favor of fat cat, deep pocketed corporate and special interests. My work is mine, and no one should be given the right to take it away from me just because he/she is too darned lazy to track me down.

Thanks for your time,

dawn j. benko