“our copyrights are our source of income because lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once our work has been published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the public.”

The Copyright Office of the United States

To whom it may concern:

I came to this country 60 years ago not by my choice, but my father’s. He brought our family here from Germany to give us the freedoms and opportunities that exist nowhere else in the world.

Today I am an architect / artist and while practicing architecture for the same firm (Hixson) over the last 31 years I have also developed my skills as a watercolor artist.

All along the way there has always been this awareness of copyright laws and using other peoples work as being an issue for litigation. Much of the work I do takes time energy and skillful work that is not developed overnight
.
For a government office to come along at this time to say that it is ok for anyone to use my work and put responsibility on me to prove that it is my work is backward thinking.

The word “orphaned work” is just a more polite way of saying “stolen work”. The work did not get to be an orphaned work out of nowhere. Someone learned, achieved, and spent the time to create it and no-one has the right to “adopt” freely what what someone else created without notification for permission or payment

I am asking that no changes be made to the copyright laws – I have followed them throughout my career and so have all of my colleagues.

Thank you for listening,

Helmut Kientz, Architect / Artist
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