

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on potential legislative proposals to address the problems posed by orphan works, mass digitization and copyright. I support the Copyright Office's recommendations that were placed in bills in Congress in 2008. Specifically, I believe that Congress should create a legal 'safe harbor' for those using orphan works after performing a 'due diligence' search for copyright owners.

As a longer-term solution, I would also support limiting the term of copyright protections, thus shifting the volume of works out of orphan status and into the public domain. I am also in favor of increasing the volume of copyright claims that are registered with the Copyright Office, including ongoing tracking of ownership rights through licensing, probate, or other transfers. Such efforts would also help to reduce the volume of orphan works.

I firmly believe that both Congress and the American public sometimes need to be reminded that the primary purpose of copyright is to encourage the creation and preservation of cultural works.

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