

Dear People:

An aggressive effort is being waged right now to take control of creative works. Google and other Silicon Valley companies are lobbying extensively in Washington to get support for copyright reform that supports their ability to profit from orphan works (Intellectual Property whose copyright holders cannot be identified or located) and mass digitization. They are also working through library and archive groups and other “public interest” groups to make the make the orphan works and mass digitization issue appear to be in the public interest.

This month, pro-tech industry groups are discussing changes that would render many of our copyright protections moot - accessible only to those able to afford expensive legal processes. Even worse are proposals which "solve" the orphan works problem by opening a floodgate of new permitted uses under the guise of Fair Use: making economic orphans of us all.

It is urgent that content creators voices—visual artists, musicians, writers—be heard in Congress now. We urge you to write the Copyright Office in support of maintaining our rights, so that our voices will be entered in the record.

Sincerely, Tift Merritt