I wish the Orphaned Works Act and anything remotely similar would just go away permanently.

Who does it help? I can think of only two primary beneficiaries: Intellectual property thieves, and large corporations wanting to use the creations of small, independent artists for free.... I guess that's only one type of beneficiary after all.

Who does it harm? Independent creators without the reach and resources of the large corporations. Can I reasonably say that I believed Mickey Mouse to be an orphaned work? Large corporations are already sufficiently protected on many fronts. Individuals are not. It's very hard to find copyright violations if you're an individual, and almost impossible to successfully defend against those violations. If Disney sends a cease and desist letter the recipient will take notice. If I send one a significant percentage of recipients will either ignore it or get belligerent.

Currently a friend of mine is being threatened with suit because she pointed out that images being used to promote a photography business were actually stolen from other photographers (none of whom were initially aware of the violations). She does this to let photographers know when their works are being stolen and to alert the public that the images do not necessarily represent the quality of work they can expect from the local studio using stolen images.

The Disneys of the world have staff that comb the web for violations. They have legal representation on staff to pursue violators. They have financial resources that allow them to pursue a protracted legal battle over copyright violations. Individuals, for the most part, have none of that, and this would make an already terrible position even worse.

Please stop stripping the rights of individuals and small producers in order to make things easier for corporations who can afford to do things properly and thieves who are already stealing the work of others with relative impunity.