To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed changes to the US Copyright Act, with regard to an 'orphan works' type legislation is absolutely shocking and devastating for all artists. I am a photographer and have had many of my photos stolen, claimed, sold, shared, and used for commercial purposes, all without permission or compensation. The only way I was able to get my work removed was because of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and the Berne Convention. Having my work affected in this way was very upsetting and the existing protections were the only way to remedy this horrible problem.

I don't understand why you would want to strip artists of their rights to their own work and make it impossible to make a living at what they do. What about the Berne Convention? This would certainly negate that international agreement. The motivations for this proposal appear to be questionable at best.

I urge you not to proceed with what appears to be a very damaging proposal that would hurt artists and only benefit unscrupulous interests.

Regards,

Peggy Reynolds

Artist and Photographer