Dear US Copyright Office,

Once upon a time, you stood for something important. You stood for the protection of certain rights, the rights of a creator to the work of their hands. They had every right to the labor of their hands, and no one was permitted to rob them of their efforts. You were the guardian of rights, for great and small.

Now it seems you're going the way of all the other institutions meant to protect the common (wo)man. You're threatening to bow to the whims of the wealthy and permit a gross injustice to occure which the haves will manipulate to the detriment of the have-nots. According to this new law, as I read it, if an individual tries to contact me about a specific work of art, but cannot find me, the piece of art in question can be considered 'orphaned' - since this person searched 'in good faith' - and they can then put the work to use as they see fit. The implications of such a ruling are obvious.

Why does this have to happen? Why do I, as an artist, have to endure this breach of fairness? Why should someone with ambition and some money be given the opportunity to market my product and make money off of my labors and not give me a cent? Please, don't do this. Please. Be good, be kind, be the guardian I still want to believe you to be.