To those at the Copyright Office:

I am an amateur photographer. Although I have not (yet) sold my photographs to make money, the idea the others could take them from my personal web pages and sell them makes me ill.

To me, this is theft, plain and simple. Anyone who wants to use my pictures needs to ask my permission. The worst part is that many of my photos are of friends and family – those are posted only to people I know and trust; however, if someone else were to gain access to them and sell them without my permission (or perhaps even knowledge) for money, I would feel violated.

The concept here is basic: anyone's created works (whether drawn, written, painted, sculpted, crocheted, photographed, etc) are their own. They need not be registered in order to be owned by their creator. For anyone else to take these works, call them 'orphaned,' and use them for their own gain (monetary or any other way) is wrong and violates our freedoms of speech and creativity.

Please do not allow this to happen. It could (and would) destroy the livelihood and freedoms of artists around the country.

Thank you for your time,
Robin Prehn