

To whom it concerns:

As a music researcher with an interest in historical recordings, I strongly urge Congress to amend US copyright law to loosen restrictions on copying sound recordings. Several of the small recording labels I work with are now defunct; others have been absorbed into multinational conglomerates whose interest in answering researchers' requests for use are minimal at best. Although post-1972 recordings can enter the public domain, earlier ones are effectively orphans: no one holds any economic interest in these items, but access to them by researchers, preservationists, and the public is severely restricted. This situation can actually bar the preservation of recordings whose age means that they are in danger of decaying beyond recovery. Please address this lacuna in the law to allow the preservation of and access to these recordings.

Sincerely,

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