Friends at the copyright office,

I am a graphic artist and illustrator with over 20 years of experience. I have received awards from many of our industries top organizations, including AIGA, Print, the Society of Illustrators, the Society of Publ. Designs, and the Type Directors Club.

My experience includes creating art and illustration, but also acting as art director to other artists, and includes tenures at such famous publications as Rolling Stone.

This experience leads me to understand the tremendous value of the copyright for artists and other creatives. These are our assets. This is not an abstract concept, but rather is our physical AND intellectual property.

The Orphan Works concept seeks to put an undue burden on us for protection of our works, rather than putting the liability of use on the end user (where it belongs). And it leaves a dangerous likelihood of entities using anything they find online, then claiming ignorance / due diligence.

In short, while it certainly protects media giants like Google, it has the potential to be devastating for those of us who created this intellectual property to begin with.

I therefore can not express strongly enough how bad this idea is, and how much it threatens America's creative industry (which is one of our most powerful and lucrative industries.)

Surely there is a better way.