

Benjamin-Ray-20050314130004

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Ray Benjamin

Comment:

I'm trying to become a published author. If there comes a time in the future when the copyright of my work cannot be extended because I am dead and I have no heirs, then I would hope that my work would become available in the public domain. I would like to see whatever contributions I'm able to make last as long as possible. I suspect this is true of many other artists.

Our science and art, arguably the two greatest fields of endeavor for humanity, are both dependent upon access to the works of others. We restrict that use at the peril of slowing our progress in the arts and sciences to the point where our culture and civilization are starved of the beauty and energy they need to grow.