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

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From: John Wi tek

Comment:

My partner and I make documentaries for public television which are generally given free to PBS stations. During the course of research, we locate many orphan works that would greatly enhance our programs and increase their viewer interest.

Unfortunately, current copyright laws make it impossible for us to use these works when holders of the copyrights in question can't be found. Consequently, everyone loses-- and rare, one-of-a-kind films might just as well be tossed on the scrap heap.

The worst effect of the current laws governing orphan films is the atmosphere of fear and confusion it creates among filmmakers. The cloud that hangs over orphan films destroys creativity, and I hope the copyright office will take steps to improve this situation