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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Rob Hagopi an

Comment:

While protection of copyright is essential for companies to maximize benefits from their intellectual property, this should not come at zero cost to the copyright holder who may not even value the work highly enough to pay for renewal (which, unfortunately, has been done away with). By granting such blanket protections, society is locked away from critical ideas and concepts that could benefit everyone far more by disemination than it does by perpetuating this lockbox.

There is a clear and consistent pattern of works entering into the public domain and being brought back to life - creating new value. By continuing with the current copyright system we will be subject to not new ideas, but the same tired ones over and over again.