Laurie Baars
6615 Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
www.lauriebaars.com

U.S. Copyright Office:

I have been a freelance illustrator and surface pattern designer for 3 years. Prior to that I was a textile designer for 15 years. I create original hand-drawn art and license or sell it outright. For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests. My copyrights are the products that I license and this means that infringing my work is like stealing my money. It is essential to my business that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used.

My work doesn't lose it's value upon publication. Instead, everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the field of surface pattern design, the same design can often be licensed repeatedly or slightly modified (by me) and re-sold. My primary way of obtaining business is by sharing my work digitally online via my website, Pinterest, Instagram, etc. In this digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

Because of this, I strongly oppose any legislation that would allow someone else to monetize my work for their own profit without my knowledge or consent. There is nothing worse than seeing something you created shown under someone else's name or on the website of an entity that did not purchase it from you. It is a violation of the highest degree. It is already happening now and the last thing we need is for it to become legally sanctioned.

Regards,
Laurie Baars