RE: "The Next Great Copyright Act"

As a professional artist for over 50 years, I am stunned that this would even be considered. I have worked as an artist for research, educational programming, government interpretive centers, planetarium programs and as a designer and artist in the museum field. This is in addition to having my own studio since 1977.

The art community needs to be protected from exploitation and we have worked long and hard to have what protection is now offered. This would essentially remove all protection and throw artists into the wind. Art should always belong to the artist unless that person expressly releases the rights to its use. There are already numerous databases with public access art which are available. This proposed act subverts the control of an individual's hard work and hands it over to commercial firms with no compensation or decision on the part of that creative person.

Because artists are not financially on the high income scale, this would destroy the income of many people whose livelihood depends on sale and/or resale of their art. Published works are still potentially viable for income and should never be considered public domain. This would be tantamount to theft of property in any other situation. There are many places and organizations to whom I would not consider releasing my work for various personal or professional reasons. This act would make my work available to anyone without my consent – or even my knowledge. I truly do not condone such plagiary of my long hours of work and the long years of experience which bring me to completion of that work.

Sincerely hoping you will not revise the protection in place for the creative arts,

Mozelle Funderburk