Corruption of the US copyright law

I am writing as a professional artist who is appalled at the rewrite of the copyright laws. Are all laws now for the benefit of corporations? Does the individual not have any rights any more? I have a degree in Horticulture, a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists as well as the Guild of Natural Science illustrators, and have been a botanical illustrator for over 25 years. It has been helpful to me that my illustrations have been protected with our copyright laws whether they have been registered or not. That should be the basic right of all artists and inventors.

It appears that the laws are now being changed for the benefit of the corporate entities and the Internet, which is very wrong. We depend on the copyright laws to protect our work. We don't have lots of money to spend on commercial registries or filing lawsuits, and we should not have to do that anyway…it is our work and our right to say who gets to use it and who doesn't. Our lively hood depends on that. Why that is so hard to understand I don't know but why would you even consider taking that right away or making it so complicated and such a hardship for us as individual artists to keep what is ours. It is criminal the changes to the copyright laws you are contemplating. These works of art are ours to do with what we want and not be poached by Google or by who ever feels they would like to use it without paying royalties for it. If you worked hard on an invention or a masterpiece of artwork how would you feel if anybody could just take it and make money using it without paying you. The new law changes are in effect stealing from us artists.

Our work does not loose its value if published…who ever said that is frankly an idiot. I do hope you will reconsider this new version of the law. Don't bow to those that want to take our artwork away for their own profit and not pay the originators for the privilege. I don't think you would like somebody to profit off your ideas without your knowledge…

Rebecca Brown-Thompson….