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Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 5:30 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Royalties/Rights etc.

To the DOJ -

Just a reminder that institutions such as ASCAP and BMI were founded to protect our nation's music-makers during times of technological change—when songs were no longer heard by playing from purchased sheet music, but transmitted live by radio and only somewhat later in history, re-transmitted as a recording by radio, then television.

New technologies are not exempt from royalty payment; how the double standard has risen to be a "norm" is astonishing and simply inexcusable.

Our Nation's Capital has vastly diminished support of cultural output over the last half century, placing the creation of original creative work into a more entrepreneurial—competitive—scenario. That scenario must be seen as a competition between artists—not misconstrued as competition between aggregates who use original, costly-to-produce creative product free of charge in order to make outrageous amounts of personal profit.

An similar situation in an other field would look something like this: A supermarket charges \$1.50 per avocado. An avocado farmer is paid .01¢ per avocado. Meanwhile, production of avocados in bulk requires land, seeding, watering, harvesting and all the labor that goes with that, breaking down to a production cost of \$2.00 per avocado.

Who would you protect—the supermarket who refuses to pay more than .01¢ per unit, or the farmer who produces salable crops at a deficit?

Creative entrepreneurship has become both a necessity and is now becoming endangered thanks to faulty legislation. It's time to protect the artists from corporate thievery. Under current legislation, operations like Sirius, Pandora, Spotify et al are legalized pirating—the very thing that the entertainment industry in the US has been battling so ardently for the last 20 years on the civilian level.

If digital/streaming services are allowed to pirate from artists, does this send a realistic message to civilians who pirate music?

You are the Department of Justice. You are experienced in logic. My arguments should be redundant to you, but my sentiments are unique. I'm a composer who has lost revenue from my work to the point that I have none. I no longer earn a living making my work. The current laws have made it so that I cannot continue in my entrepreneurial endeavors competitively. That's the bottom line.

Will you support me as a grass roots entrepreneur so that I can continue contributing to the national voice of culture?

Thank you for your time.
Nicholas F Chase

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