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Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 6:47 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Historic Injustice to Songwriters

I am a songwriter from California who is a member of ASCAP and the bands Dimestore Prophets and Veil of Ashes. I oppose the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees as they are outdated and protect billion dollar corporations like Google/YouTube, Apple and the like, while putting songwriters out of work and in the unemployment line.

Times have radically changed since the consent decrees were put into effect. Technology has enabled everyone to enjoy our music over the internet. People no longer buy CDs or albums like they once did. They do not listen to the radio like they once did. Now, they stream music through Spotify, Google Play, Amazon, Apple, etc. These massive corporations are profiting immensely from ads and subscription fees and not sharing the profit with the very people who have created the music that they are profiting from in the first place: the songwriter.

These big corporations pocket basically all of the profit of our craft, maybe handing the songwriter fractions of fractions of pennies per play. For instance, a songwriter might receive as little \$17 dollars for 1 million plays. How much revenue does the corporation receive from ads and subscriptions as a result of those 1 million plays? Do you see how unjust this is? It is unjust and oppressive that these rates were set with no input from the songwriters.

There would be no music without the songwriter and no music industry. That is why it is a grave injustice that today's songwriter cannot even pretend to make a living from today's internet streaming rates. The consent decrees are ancient, irrelevant in today's high tech world, and are now creating unemployment by putting songwriters out of work.

Please correct this injustice!

Sincerely,
Phil Meads
American Songwriter