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Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2014 1:23 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Comments regarding mandates

As a singer/songwriter and publisher, I am all too aware of the disparities in the division of royalty monies, licensing fees, licensing control, and so on. My music plays on most of the big (and small) digital music distributors and I really have little to no say on where or how the music is used. I would much prefer that ASCAP/BMI be allowed to control who may or may not play my music. I would also like the government to step back from legislating division of royalties and allow those of us in the field to self-regulate the division of money. It is absolutely unfair for large players like Pandora, et al, to get a big piece of the pie for playing my music (with or without my express permission) while I get a minute pie. I respectfully request that the current decision makers please consider changing all such legislation and regulations, preferably by allowing ASCAP and BMI the ability to determine royalty distributions, and direct music distributors, online players and sellers, etc. to comply with revised rules that more fairly distribute profits!

It seems that everyone needs to be reminded that, although we all play a part in getting music to the public, we need each other to do so. Unfair distribution of profits force the small folks like me to abandon our creative roles because we simply cannot afford to not be paid a fair wage for our work. It's true that without music distributors, the public would not hear our music. But, it's also true that without our efforts and songwriters and publishers, there would be no music to play.

Thank you.

Bernadette Kramer
ASCAP member since 1995
tinyseed music, inc.