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**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 6:27 PM

**To:** ATR-MusicLicensing-Workshop (ATR) <[ATR.MusicLicensing-Workshop@ATR.USDOJ.GOV](mailto:ATR.MusicLicensing-Workshop@ATR.USDOJ.GOV)>

**Subject:** ASCAP and BMI consent decrees

Dear DOJ,

I am writing to you to ask that you keep the consent decrees for ASCAP and BMI. Anything that gives these organizations more ways to charge small businesses even more is only hurting them and the local musicians they are trying to support. Higher ASCAP and BMI fees will only mean fewer venues offering live music where local musicians can perform. In addition:

- The ASCAP and BMI consent decrees are just as important today as ever before. The Justice Department must stand on the side of competition and small businesses by preserving the decrees in their current form.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses like mine are fighting to survive. Terminating or sunseting the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees during this crisis would be a death sentence for businesses like mine that are economic multipliers in our communities.
- In fact, we were forced to close during the pandemic and even with no customers, we are expected to pay music licensing fees.
- Making any changes to the music licensing system that would result in an increase of fees or further complicate the process would cripple American businesses trying to support local musicians.

Thanks-

***The Furrows***

**Hickory Hill Vineyards, LLC**

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