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Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 6:19 PM

To: ATR-MusicLicensing-Workshop (ATR) <ATR.MusicLicensing-Workshop@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>

Cc: Tara Good <[t\[REDACTED\]](mailto:t[REDACTED])>; Sam Filler <[samf\[REDACTED\]](mailto:samf[REDACTED])>

Subject: ASCAP and BMI consent decree

At Paumanok Vineyards and at Palmer Vineyards we hire local artists to perform for our visitors. One impediment which caused us to discontinue such performances are the fees charged by ASCAP and BMI and SESAC. The latter, strangely, is not included in the consent decree.

The consent decree renewal and maintenance is important:

- 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
- Should you have any Questions, please reply to this email.

Charles Massoud
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