

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ATR-LitIII-Information](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on the Paramount Decrees  
**Date:** Thursday, August 2, 2018 5:32:17 PM

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To whom it may concern,

[REDACTED] I'm a current film production student and studio development intern in Los Angeles. As someone who works in the film industry, in particular the independent sector, I'm deeply concerned about the potential effects of repealing the Paramount Decrees.

When passed in 1948, the Paramount Decrees helped break up the monopolies that existed in the film industry, laying the foundations for a more competitive, diverse, and profitable market. Theaters could no longer be barred from showing features that might compete with those produced by their owners, and could also set prices for their own tickets. These principles of diversity and choice helped form the modern multiplex industry, a massively successful and lucrative sector that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and produces billions of dollars every year. Breaking down the Paramount Decree would mean breaking down those principles; as such, studios might take advantage of that and limit or bar releases, cutting off the livelihood of numerous working-class Americans.

The Paramount Decree also serves as valuable anti-trust regulation in the film industry, which, before its passage, was vertically integrated to an extreme degree. Studios owned theaters, releasing methods, and even specific stars, controlling business and restricting any sort of competition. The Decree helped break this apart, creating a level playing field in which hard-working Americans had as much of a chance of making it in Hollywood as the members of the old dynasties.

Finally, it should be noted that the Paramount Decrees made room for one of the most innovative and economically viable markets in American media: independent cinema. With restrictions placed on larger studios, smaller competitors no longer needed to compete for their blessing, and thus set out to create and distribute their own work. The resulting boom made American cinema what it is today by breaking down economic barriers and the unfair censorship of the Hays Code, creating a wider, more diverse range of films that addressed taboo subjects and challenged preconceptions. Indie studios are Hollywood's answer to small businesses, ones run not by executives but by honest, dedicated American dreamers who do what they do out of genuine passion. They serve as viewpoints for all sides, whether they be liberal creators like A24 and Blumhouse or conservative voices like PureFlix and D'Souza Media. Removing the Paramount Decree could spell disaster for this unique all-American institution.

By now, I hope I've made my opposition to this measure clear. Repealing the Paramount Decree wouldn't just be clearing away old, outdated regulation - it would destroy the foundations of merit-based success and freedom of choice that make the film industry such a crucial part of American society. When you consider this, I hope you can look beyond the stars that form Hollywood's public face and see the hundreds of thousands of technicians, set builders, independent producers, and theater employees whose jobs and livelihoods are ensured by these decrees. This decision affects more than a few celebrities. It affects the American dream itself.

Thank you for your time, and have a good day.

Yours,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone