

**From:** Bart Horton <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:57 AM

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

**Subject:** Comments regarding ASCAP and BMI Consent Decree

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my concerns in regards to the bully practices of ASCAP, BMI and the other music license royalty companies. I am the owner of Century Farm Winery located in Jackson, TN and for years have fought against signing the multi-year contracts of ASCAP and BMI. I feel that their fees are too costly and small businesses, and all businesses for that matter, should be forced to sign their contracts and pay their outlandish fees.

It's not up to me to determine what is fair and legal when administering royalties but just like congress I support term limits and there should be a set period of time where royalties should be allowed verses collecting them on an indefinite basis.

At Century Farm Winery we do not collect a cover charge or entry fee to our live music events but rather we pay for the bands out of our pocket as an added benefit to our guests that visit our winery. Many of the bands that we support play their original music and some play covers or a mix of the two. Most every time a cover is played the musicians alter the lyrics to a certain degree to encourage participation from the crowd.

It is my desire for the DOJ to eliminate ASCAP, BMI and anyone else that is attempting to charge excess fees and bind businesses to lengthy contracts for the mere purpose of collecting music royalties.

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