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Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:13 PM
To: ATR-MusicLicensing-Workshop (ATR) <ATR.MusicLicensing-Workshop@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

To Whom It May Concern:

The ASCAP and BMI consent decrees are the only barrier standing between local businesses and monopoly pricing. Should the Antitrust Division end or significantly alter these decrees, businesses will be forced to pay far greater costs for music, not only threatening jobs but leading ultimately to less music being played, which will also harm songwriters.

These consent decrees are just as important today as ever before. They prohibit ASCAP and BMI from colluding, information sharing, or price fixing. 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.

Sincerely,

Katherine G. Meyerhoff

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