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Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:55 PM

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

Subject: ASCAP and BMI consent decrees

To Whom It May Concern,

Please leave in place the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees.

My business is a small business. My business was forced to close for more than three months because of COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns. Those also kept potential customers at home. I had no revenue during this time. Now, my winery can only operate on a limited basis outdoors. Extra steps are required to ensure sanitization which cost money for supplies and for extra time. People are not visiting in the numbers they had been before the shutdown.

Any additional hardship such as removal of ATCAP or BMI would result in closure of my business.

The music industry operates in a MAFIA style by coming in and demanding huge amounts of money even though we have only a handful of guests visiting our winery. BMI demands extortion for music that is freely available to anyone anywhere in the world. They failed to protect any rights they may have had in years past and now are using the government to steal money from small businesses like my own.

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.

Regards,

Eric Metz, President/Owner
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