

**From:** John Ashton <johnasht[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2014 10:18 AM  
**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>  
**Subject:** Artist & Creators Rights

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*I am an American songwriter, a member of PRS and a member of the bands The Psychedelic Furs and Satellite Paradiso. I'm submitting this comment on my own behalf in opposition to the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. I believe these government actions essentially are a compulsory license outside of the Congress and take away songwriters' rights to due process of law.*

*Just to be clear, I am not saying that Justice Department consent decrees in general are oppressive. I am saying that the way these particular consent decrees operate is oppressive to songwriters. That operation is oppressive because of the extremely long period of time they have been in effect, because they take away our valuable property rights to negotiate our own licenses, and they essentially force songwriters into being judged guilty before we've even expressed ourselves.*

*Please consider this:*

*I cannot support my family or pay my rent, put food on the table, cloth my children, afford healthcare or drive a car because for the last 15 years I have watched my only source (a source that I have relied on since 1980) to survive on, make more music and support a healthy and sustainable government by paying taxes on my earnings as a songwriter and performer.*

*The system needs to understand that the laws by which it operates in favor of the corporations, are at best outdated and at worst are willfully stealing from us.*

*Please, Please, Please, do the right thing and redress this awful, oppressive situation.*

*Thank you,*

*John Ashton*