**From:** Tom Pile <tpil[redacted]
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2014 1:05 PM
**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
**Subject:** Review of ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

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*I am an American songwriter and member of ASCAP. 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.*

*The way these particular consent decrees operate is oppressive to songwriters 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 because they essentially force songwriters into being judged guilty before we've even expressed ourselves.*

*In particular, I believe:*

- *The Consent Decrees be modified to allow rights holders to permit ASCAP or BMI to license their performance rights to some music users but not others. Just as I am free to choose where I buy or where I invest, I want to be able to choose where I sell.*
- *The rate-making function currently performed by the rate court should be changed to a system of mandatory arbitration.*
- *The Consent Decrees should be modified to permit rights holders to grant ASCAP and BMI rights in addition to "rights of public performance."*

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