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Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 11:41 AM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

To: Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim

My name is Charlotte Caffey. I am a songwriter, guitarist and member of The Go-Go's, but I write to you today as a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) for the past 38 years. It was brought to my attention that the Department of Justice has opened its review of the ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees. I believe this could be a great opportunity to change the Consent Decrees to create a more fair environment for songwriters, producers and composers.

In my 40+ years in the music industry, I have had the privilege of watching songs that I wrote - like "We Got the Beat" and "Vacation" for The Go-Go's - connect with millions of Americans, turn into hits and help me earn a sustainable living. But so many talented, hardworking songwriters today don't have that luxury, through no fault of their own. I have watched the industry change over the years and become more unfair towards professional creatives, and more daunting to navigate.

This is why I support ASCAP and BMI's recommendations for reforming the Consent Decrees. These 78-year-old Decrees simply don't reflect the way that music is consumed today. They prevent songwriters, composers and publishers from getting a fair shot at a good living, by keeping ASCAP and BMI under restrictions that make no sense in today's world. Our PROs should be able to negotiate for the value of our work in the free market, like other creative industries. The consent decrees need to be updated, and ASCAP and BMI's proposal would provide a fair and flexible framework for music licensing that works for ALL stakeholders.

We believe that the free market will ultimately give music creators the chance to earn the true value of our work.

Operating as a not-for-profit, ASCAP and the work they do remain extremely crucial to me and my fellow songwriters. When our music is performed publicly, we need our performance rights organization to negotiate and collect license fees, track performances and distribute royalties from the businesses that use our music. That's why it is of the utmost importance that we protect and ensure the future of these performance rights organizations, so that we can keep making the music that America loves.

Music creators are the heart and soul of the music industry. Without us, your favorite songs would not exist. It is time we modernize these Consent Decrees and preserve the benefits of collective licensing through ASCAP and BMI, so all generations of songwriters have a chance to thrive from the music they write that helps propel the rest of the industry, including the major technology and broadcast platforms that rely on our music.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Regards,

Charlotte Caffey