



August 8, 2019

*U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001*

*To whom it may concern,*

*We STRONGLY disagree with the possible U.S. Department of Justice ending the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated the Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) with BMI and ASCAP since 1941.*

*Ending these decrees would have a SEVERE adverse impact on those ConsERT members that serve as presenting organizations throughout the New England and mid-Atlantic states region, all other nonprofit, educational, community, state and national performance venues, restaurants, hotels, breweries, wineries, and bars ACROSS THE ENTIRE NATION in the following manner:*

- It would allow BMI and ASCAP to increase fees, without any judicial or DOJ oversight, to every performance venue, thereby raising tickets prices for consumers; and*
- It would endow BMI and ASCAP with the ability to unfairly control the performing artists that venues may hire.*

*Ending this decree WILL create significant uncertainty in how performing arts, concert venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward.*

*Regards,*

**Michael E. Moran, Jr.**  
*President*  
**ConsERT**  
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