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From: Dennis Lynch <den[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 3:23 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: Do not end the ASCAP/BMI consent decree

As the director of a small not for profit concert presenter, I strongly disagree with the U.S. Department of Justice ending the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated the Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) BMI and ASCAP since 1941.

Ending this decree would severely adversely impact arts organizations and all other non-profit educational, community, state and national performance venues, and restaurants, hotels, breweries, wineries and bars and musicians across the entire country 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.
- It would force many venue operators and promoters out of business, or force them to turn to other fields of promotion, thus potentially throwing thousands of musicians and others in the music industry out of work.

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

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