

**From:** Jason Dake [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2019 10:48 AM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep the ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

Greetings,

As an arts professional in Northern Michigan who books acts for the Dennon Museum Center, I must ask that you move to keep the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees in place.

Securing performance rights to play music is already a difficult process for venues—including restaurants, hotels, breweries, wineries, bars or arts centers. As it stands now, we often have trouble securing a license that best fits our music needs and at a fair price. We often find ourselves bullied into buying multiple expensive performance licenses that we may not even need or will ever use.

Without the benefit of these settlement agreements—embodied in “consent decrees”—that protect establishments like ours from being subjected to anti-competitive behavior at the hands of the two largest music licensors, ASCAP and BMI, music licensing will become even more complicated and costly.

As we are located in a rural part of the state, we are not afforded the luxury of sellout performances from big name acts. We must negotiate every contract in order to ensure we provide engaging entertainment for our audiences at cost-effective rates. Nonetheless we continue to bring in artists from around the world, many of whom perform for local K-12 students as well as college students and adults.

Removing consent decrees will negatively impact everyone from venues to the concert going public, resulting in less accessible programs for our community. Meanwhile, ASCAP and BMI will continue to strangle the industry in order to make their bottom line grow to benefit their shareholders. Please keep the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees in place for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Jason Dake  
[REDACTED]