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From: Michael Krausnick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 11:56 AM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: BMI - ASCAP Antitrust Consent Decree comment

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the Departments of Justice's consideration to modify or terminate the above noted consent decrees. The consent decrees should be maintained. I support the non-profit Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, California which will be adversely impacted if the consent decrees are modified or terminated.

The decrees have been in existence for over 75 years and were modified in 1994 and 2001. It is my understanding that the Department of Justice completed a multi-review of the decrees less than three years ago concluding that they should not be altered. The decrees have helped mitigate anti-competitive behavior and have ensured that songwriters and creators receive payments wherein their music is played in a number of venues across this land.

Many persons and groups have gone on record as stating that the modification, termination or possible sunset of the decrees would lead to chaos for the entire marketplace. If the consent decrees are not maintained the financial stability of the arts, including the Gallo center for the Arts in Modesto could be greatly imperiled. The present system of increasing rates with judicial oversight has worked well and should not be altered or changed..

Therefore, I along with all the patrons of the Gallo Center for the Arts strongly urge the DOJ to not alter or modify the current consent decrees with BMI and ASCAP.