

**From:** Jane Wiedlin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2019 1:48 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** ASCAP/BMI Consent Decrees

To: Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim

I'm writing to you today as a member of ASCAP, (the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) and, most recently, as an advocate on behalf of my fellow songwriters. For four decades, I've been a proud member of this organization, which works hard each day to support songwriters of all stripes – from household names to newcomers.

In 1981, the Go-Go's released "Our Lips are Sealed" on vinyl – hardly the medium we use today to listen to music! The fact that we now have access to virtually ALL music with the tap of a finger is probably the craziest shift I've witnessed in the music biz over the years. And this shift has drastically affected the ability for songwriters to earn a living.

Unfortunately, the Department of Justice's 1941 consent decree with ASCAP hasn't kept up with these shifts. In the twenty first century, these deregulations undervalue our creations and prevent songwriters from earning what our music is worth in the marketplace. That's why I'm asking you to modernize these unnecessary regulations and help create a system that more closely resembles the free market that all creatives deserve to operate in.

Earlier this year, I visited Washington with ASCAP to speak with members of Congress about this issue. I told them what I'm telling you today: we've worked our whole lives at this, and yet now, we are back to scrambling to pay the bills! I know that I am not alone. Think of a world without music. And think of what will happen if the people that create songs are unable to do so because they can't AFFORD TO!

If we want the next generation of songwriters to thrive, we need laws which reflect the digital world we live in -- not laws that were designed in [1941](#) for a very different world.

I support ASCAP's call to put modernize these consent decrees and make way for a new system that more accurately reflects how the music business operates today.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Jane Wiedlin  
The Go-Go's