

From: Jeff Baitx [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2019 6:08 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: Performing Rights Orgs - Consent Decrees

Hello -

I am writing to strongly disagree with the potential decision to end the antitrust consent decrees that regulate Performing Rights Organizations (PROs) such as BMI and ASCAP, among others.

This decision would negatively impact the entire music performance industry. Terminating these decrees would allow the PRO's to set whatever rates they wanted without regulation, to set differing rates for promoters in the same market, and to decline licenses, effectively controlling the artists we can work with and as a result, our business.

These PROs should be regulated to maintain fair, standardized rates that are consistent across all promoters, and they should NOT be allowed to deny licenses - the ability to deny our license would bar us from working with any of the artists on their rosters, and the vast majority of performing musicians today are represented by both BMI and ASCAP. As a promoter that operates within our own venue and also as a renter at other venues, having inconsistent rates across other promoters in our market could edge out promoters whose fees are significantly higher than others in the same market.

Performing Rights Organizations should be regulated, and I respectfully urge the DOJ to maintain the Antitrust Consent Decrees.

Sincerely,

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Jeff Baitx
[REDACTED]