

From: Jeff Zeitler <urb[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2019 11:09 AM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: Further restriction on ASCAP and BMI are needed

Hello,

I'm a winery owner who has been harassed mercilessly by ASCAP and BMI. I think it is reasonable to add additional restrictions on these PRO agencies and also believe that there should be a way for business owners to hold these agencies accountable for their abuses.

We do not host bands that play cover music. Period. But we are still harassed by phone, by email and snail mail by both agencies. They insist that I must buy their licenses and cajole, threaten, and even send cease and desist letters without naming a single instance in which their licensed music was played at my winery.

These are monopolistic organizations that are driving small family-owned businesses out of business, and reducing the venues at which musicians can play. They have outlived their usefulness and need to be seriously reined in.

When I tell musicians what has been happening, ostensibly in their names, they are aghast. They can't believe that this is happening. At the same time, many have wondered out loud why so few small venues will let them play as of late. It's pretty obvious what ASCAP and BMI are doing to the market, both for musicians and venues, and it isn't good.

Thank you for your consideration.

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