



**PROVIDENCE
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

August 8, 2019

**J.L. "Lynn" Singleton
President**

The Honorable Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

220 Weybosset Street

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim:

Providence

The Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) and Professional Facilities Management (PFM) are submitting these comments to respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Justice and Antitrust Division to continue to uphold the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. The consent decrees provide protection against anticompetitive behavior and provide fair and equitable music licensing for music performances in the country.

Rhode Island

02903-3783

The Providence Performing Arts Center and its subsidiary, PFM, are based out of Providence, Rhode Island. PPAC is a 501(c)3 that brings over 250 events a year to the State of Rhode Island at its 3,000-seat performing arts center and the 1,900-seat Veterans Memorial Auditorium. These two facilities are home to the local orchestra, dance company, and numerous other local non-profit arts groups. They also bring in a variety of concerts, comedy, and family programs to the greater Rhode Island community.

Tel: 401 421-2997

Terminating the consent decrees would be disruptive to the Rhode Island marketplace and jeopardize the performing arts centers' ability to license music in the community.

Fax: 401 421-5767

The consent decrees promote competition and limit the potential for abuse by requiring all licenses be non-exclusive and all license requests be granted. The judicial oversight that is required in the consent decrees provides a necessary check on ASCAP and BMI by providing a means to settle rate disputes. The limitations on ASCAP and BMI that are imposed by the consent decrees ensure smaller venues can still afford to provide their communities with live musical presentations.

**Website:
www.ppacri.org**

BMI and ASCAP continue to monopolize the ownership of performance rights in the music industry, so market conditions warrant and support the continuation of the consent decrees.

Thank you for your consideration of the Providence Performing Arts Center's comments on this matter.

Sincerely,



J. L. "Lynn" Singleton
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Jack Reed, U.S. Senate (RI)
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, U. S. Senate (RI)
The Honorable David Cicilline, U. S. House of Representatives (RI)
The Honorable James Langevin, U.S. House of Representatives (RI)