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Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 7:48 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: Antitrust Consent Decrees ASCAP and BMI 2019

As music lovers and supporters of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra we would like to comment that terminating the Consent Decrees will cause undue hardship for music providers in our community.

The termination of the Consent Decrees would allow Performing Rights Organizations (PROs) to **significantly increase rates without any of the judicial or DOJ oversight required under the Consent Decrees**, allow differing fees between presenters and give them the ability to decline licenses potentially giving the PROs the ability to **control which acts presenters may hire**. This could also create significant uncertainty in how venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward. Without the Consent Decrees in place, the Lubbock Symphony would be very limited in the compositions it could present to the Lubbock community. This change would also likely increase ticket prices to account for the increased licensing fees. This change not only affects symphony orchestras across the United States, but would also affect any organization or business who plays music over a sound system or hires live music acts. For example, one would likely see increased menu prices at restaurants in order for owners to be able to afford the music they play or the live acts they hire.

Therefore, we support keeping the Antitrust Consent Decrees in place. Thank you.

Richard and Reyhan Crider
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