

From: Emily Sleeper <ESleeper@rutheckerd.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:17 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: BMI and ASCAP Licensing

I am aware that the Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) BMI and ASCAP have requested that the U.S. Department of Justice end the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated both BMI and ASCAP since the early 1940s. Removal is significantly detrimental to the viability of cultural institutions as well as on the entertainment industry as a whole.

The termination of the Consent Decrees would allow these PROs to increase rates without any judicial oversight, allowing differing license fees from presenter to presenter as well as the ability to decline a license and therefore control which artists can be hired. In effect, a monopoly on the industry. The intent is to demand higher royalty fees and force access to revenue streams such as food sales, parking fees, program ads, etc. which are unrelated to the creation or performance of the art or music.

Our arts organization relies heavily on these other sources of revenue to remain viable, keep prices accessible, and reinvest back into the local community with educational programming. Ruth Eckerd Hall plays a large role in our state, having an economic impact of \$9.1M and is only one of hundreds of such arts institutions, employing thousands of people across the country serving millions of citizens who will all lose if the PROs are granted their request. We ask you to advocate on the community's behalf to maintain judicial oversight.

The Consent Decrees must remain in place.

Sincerely,

Emily Sleeper

VIP Ticketing and Membership Services

1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759

DC@rutheckerd.net

727-791-7355





Save a tree...don't print me

Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) & [Pinterest](#).

BILLBOARD MAGAZINE HAS RANKED RUTH ECKERD HALL THE NUMBER ONE VENUE UNDER 2500 SEATS IN TICKET SALES FOR THE PAST DECADE

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the intended individual or entity. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender. You are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information received in error is strictly prohibited.