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Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 7:08 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim:

My name is Siddhartha Khosla. I'm the composer of the NBC series This Is Us.

Over my two decades as a music creator, I've gone from arranging for my college a cappella group, to getting signed to a major label deal with my rock band Goldspot, to earning an Emmy nomination this year for my scoring. It has been an incredible journey, and I constantly remind myself how fortunate I am to make music – the thing that I am most passionate about – as my day job.

But success was a long time coming for me, as it is for every songwriter and composer. It takes more than talent to sustain a music career. It also takes a music licensing framework that fairly compensates us for our hard work. I'm worried that the talented young music creators that are just getting started today won't have the same opportunities that I did, because they are regulated by antiquated laws that were concocted generations before they were born. I'm also concerned that my future livelihood is being compromised by these very out-of-date regulations. This not only impacts me, but it impacts my ability to continue hiring musicians and composers who work with me on my projects. As a small business owner, I employ dozens of musicians and composers. Their livelihoods are all impacted by this, too.

That's why I decided to join many of my fellow ASCAP members in DC this past May, to speak with Members of Congress about the importance of protecting the value of music. And it's why I'm writing today, to ask you to bring the outdated DOJ consent decrees that govern ASCAP and BMI into the 21st century.

In a world where the businesses that license our music are multi-billion dollar technology and media conglomerates that have tremendous consolidated market power, it seems way out of balance that songwriters and composers are among the most heavily regulated in terms of how we can license our works.

The consent decrees are a holdover from a pre-WWII era that no longer applies in the streaming music era. Songwriters and composers rely more than ever on our performance royalties from ASCAP and BMI. The consent decrees restrict the licensing of music in ways that make no sense in a world where the balance of power is clearly in favor of the major technology platforms that rely on music for their businesses. All we are asking for is a level playing and an opportunity to be compensated for the true value of our music.

ASCAP and BMI have suggested a pragmatic transition to a licensing framework that allows us to be treated and compensated like anyone else in a free market. Their proposal maps out a sensible transition period to help every stakeholder in the music business – including music creators, publishers and businesses that use their music – adapt to the change. I, along with virtually every composer and songwriter I know, wholeheartedly support ASCAP and BMI's proposal, and I hope the DOJ does, too.

We hope our future as music creators is bright, and filled with the security we all need to continue making music. And your help is critical to ensuring a sustainable future for music creators everywhere. It's important to me, to my family, and to my employees and *their* families, too.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Siddhartha Khosla