

From: Steve Shapiro <stvsh[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 11:58 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Consent Decree review comments

Dear DOJ,

I am writing you as a music creator, who has made a living for his family for almost 30 years as a composer. The industry I used to know was a place where a talented professional could thrive. Today, it is almost impossible to make a living for many of my colleagues. There is a terrible threat looming for our culture and society as technology and big tech companies march on, and copyright and IP law protecting creators does not keep up.

It is my firm belief that without organizations like ASCAP and BMI, creators would never stand a chance against giant well-funded media companies, full of MBAs and lawyers. We must have collective licensing to survive. It is no monopoly - just a proven way to avoid massive exploitation and content devaluation. The consent decrees that allow music to be used first, and negotiated later has hurt every creator. They impose an out-of-date system that doesn't sustain fair market value in our new economy.

Over the last decade the world has seen giant media platforms emerge that do nothing to nurture the talent that they build their businesses on. Instead, they seem to feel that it is their right to use the intellectual property of others, while they receive "safe harbor." PLEASE PLEASE consider the music creators who are just trying to survive in a terribly disrupted industry. Please LISTEN to the artists, the songwriters, the copyright holders and publishers.... We desperately need fair laws that are relevant for a new era!!

Sincerely,

Steve Shapiro
composer/producer
New York, NY