

**From:** Bland Simpson <blandsimps [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2014 1:19 PM  
**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>  
**Subject:** DOJ ASCAP-BMI decree review public comments

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Chief, Litigation III Section  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice

I am a North Carolina songwriter and a longtime ASCAP member (since May 1971) writing to ask that, in your current considerations, the Department of Justice act both to protect songwriters and their copyrights and to help re-establish fair royalty rates of return for American composers and lyricists, the value of whose original works having been radically compromised and lowered by contemporary streaming music-delivery services -- resulting from the consent decrees of long-standing. The value of a well-distributed song in the digital age of today is extraordinarily low, and is nothing compared to what it was when I joined ASCAP over forty years ago.

North Carolina is an abundant source of artistic innovation. We musicians/songwriters are depending on Congress and the Administration to help us find a way out of the current situation, to help us once again find fair rates of return for our works.

Please free American songwriters, the vast majority of whom belong to ASCAP and BMI, to earn a better living from our works. Thank you for helping America's musical artists in any way possible at this crucial time.

Sincerely,

Bland Simpson (ASCAP) [REDACTED]

Pianist, The Red Clay Ramblers (Special Tony Award for *Fool Moon* on Broadway, 1999)