

**From:** Dimitri Smith <dimitri.w.smi[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2014 1:56 PM  
**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>  
**Subject:** COMMENTS - American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers/Broadcast Music, Inc.

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Hello,

I am an experienced songwriter, composer, singer, and pianist. I believe strongly that the consent decree must be done away with, because it does nothing but benefit massive, monopolistic companies like Youtube/Google at the expense of the individual, hard-working musicians that provide the content (music) that is so essential to our American culture and way of life. Because companies like Pandora and Youtube can use our music without my consent, my negotiating power as a business-person is drastically limited. Under these circumstances, the pitifully small amounts of money we receive from these services (millions of plays = less than \$100) will never change. Laws like these are wiping out the middle class of music makers in order to "protect" tech companies that are thriving. As the middle class of musicians deteriorates, less people will be drawn to the arts and eventually the beautiful, vibrant musical tradition of the United States will be a memory. We must respect our nation's artists as the cultural benchmarks that they are, and they deserve protection under the law just as any other entrepreneurial worker.

Thank you,

Dimitri Smith