

From: tom douglas <todou[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 11:21 AM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Consent Decree

Dear Department of Justice,

I am a songwriter in Nashville and am writing this letter on a matter of extreme importance to me and the songwriters the world over.

I write songs because I have to. The truth is I have no choice. I would write songs rich or poor...healthy or dying...in love or out of love, but as long as I am writing these songs. I would love to be fairly compensated for my efforts. Our enterprise is what America is all about. It is true entrepreneurshipwe are little cottage industries spread out over this great nation of ours. Sharpening our pencils, opening our black and white composition books and cutting an emotional vein and bleeding on the pristine blue lined page. We write about getting lost, coming home, getting drunk and getting sober, making up, making love, getting broken and picking the pieces up and starting over again. We start out writing from a deeply personal place and somehow through the magic of the creative process, our story becomes your story. As the risk of hyperbole, songwriting is about freedom. Freedom of speech...freedom to dream...I am afraid our freedom is threatened because technology has outpaced the creative process and the way that the "common folk" enjoy our music has changed so drastically.....from 45's to cd's to streaming and downloads...wow that was fast.

I am asking you to help preserve our way of life and continue to tell our stories....America's story by helping BMI move from a slow expensive rate court to a less expensive arbitration process as it relates to the Consent Decree....enable BMI to license multiple rights-not just the performing right. I have been with BMI for over 30 years. They advocate for me and make sure I am fairly compensated by anyone publicly performing my songs and allow me to focus on creating music.

I am privileged I am able to do this for a living and hope I am able (as well as the next generation of writers) to do so for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Tom Douglas

Nashville, Tennessee

Sent from Tom Douglas