

**From:** Gary Hook <garyrho [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2014 11:31 PM  
**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>  
**Subject:** Please stop

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Please stop trying to control songwriters. The reasons (for the decree) that existed when it was drafted are no longer valid nor relevant. It is long past due.

It is not acceptable to tell songwriters how much their work is worth (in 1943 dollars, no less); the market will take care of that. The government should not be in the position of trying to control something that does not (and perhaps never did) require control.

Please let the *artist* make the decision on how to license his/her work. This philosophy would mesh nicely with the entire concept of copyright. The current situation of partial control is abominable.

As for what "big tech" is demanding, please stop putting the desires of Silicon Valley \*(or any business) ahead of the people who create product. Or make the decision to control *everything* creative: books, movies, art, performances, theater, you name it. Please stop singling out songwriters. It's wrong.

The consent decree should be abolished, completely. At the very least significant changes are in order. But under no circumstances is the current situation tenable for the future. And any business that states otherwise is simply interested in milking the system for all that it can. Let me ask a question:

If the music that, today, is so inexpensively acquired has such little value, why do these companies want it so badly?

Because it has greater value that the government allows to be exploited by its creators. That's a problem that needs fixing.

With all due respect, and at the risk of sounding libertarian, get the government bureaucracy out of the way. Please. Now. Do it.

Gary R. Hook  
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