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Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 6:46 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: U.S. Consent Decree

To the United States Department of Justice,

I'm an American songwriter/drummer living in Austin, Texas; I am also a member of ASCAP. This submission is in direct response to the "Consent Decrees" currently being enforced by the U.S. Government and their court entities, etc. These existing laws do not protect the songwriters, musicians, or provide a fair market price for their created content. The American companies such as Google, Pandora, etc. utilize all of the existing laws on their own behalf and most definitely their own profit margins.

The American songwriters/musicians do not exist or merely create their unique musical content for these American companies alone.

How can American companies be profiting from something they did not initially or solely create? When the songwriters/musicians and creators can't even afford to purchase *their own health insurance*; mandated by the President. The minute royalty payments from PANDORA are quite frankly.....not enough.

The current trend and the enforcement of the "Consent Decrees" cannot continue; as there will be no *new* U.S. creativity content, specifically the young generations, they will not create music IF the music they could potentially create cannot sustain their own life. The United States needs music. I personally urge the DOJ to re-consider the "Consent Decree" as it is currently written and currently being enforced. Other known countries such as Canada and even some European countries do a better job with their laws as it pertains to copyright laws and their creative citizens, songwriters/musicians created content.

The American songwriters/musicians deserve their right for due process; without American companies [GOOGLE, PANDORA] syphoning their unearned profits beforehand.

Thank you,

Christopher Ruiz - Songwriter/Drummer/Austin, Texas.