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Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 3:26 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: consent decrees

To whom it may concern,

I am a songwriter and an ASCAP member. The world of music distribution and sales has changed dramatically in the last ten years. The sale of physical product has plummeted, and more recently the sale of digital files has dropped as well. This is because online digital music services make almost any music available for a small monthly subscription, so consumers no longer feel the need to purchase music in any physical or digital form. The royalty structure governed by these consent decrees that were established before these changes took place are no longer remotely fair to songwriters, composers, and other audio content creators. The monetary figures are absurdly pathetic: a check for \$1.45 for 30,000 plays; a check for \$17 for a 1,000,000 plays.

I feel fortunate to have had a career in music where I was able to earn a reasonable income (I'm now 58 yrs. old). But my heart breaks for the talented young artists and songwriters who are trying to build careers in this age of artistic exploitation by these online digital services. If these laws are not changed a huge and very important piece of this country's cultural heritage will shrivel and die.

You are the United States Department of Justice. Please make the royalty compensation for the online digital use of the creative work of songwriters and composers just.

thank you for your time,

Tom Wasinger

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