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From: Mike Batek [mailto:batek [Redacted]]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:22 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review
Cc: Denise Batek
Subject: Winery in Texas

Hello,

I would like to state that we, my wife and I, spend 7 days a week working to make a go at our business. We just passed our two year anniversary and have not taken one cent for ourselves. We pour in our time and energy, while living on savings, to make it a viable business and make our customers happy. We occasionally have music. Music for us is an expensive that doesn't cover its cost in added revenue. Everyone says that they enjoy it, but no one is willing to pay for it or even tip. When we have musicians, the drill is they can only play original music that they have written. We have had very threatening calls from ASCAP and bullying letters from BMI on signing up with them. The ASCAP attorney for Texas, whom I have called to try to get off my back is very quick to say they will sue and close us down for having music played. I tell him no covers are allowed and that does not matter to him. To date, we have not been sued. For 2015, we have only had one musician out for fear of some sort of lawsuit. I cannot believe that as a business that I have to fear a lawsuit to simply have someone out to strum a guitar in front of 10 -15 people. Please help reign in these piranhas!

Thank you for listening,

Mike and Denise Batek
Hye Meadow Winery