



April 10, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
U.S. Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold (“Jerry”) Nadler  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary  
2142 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

*Re: H.R. 5447, the Music Modernization Act*

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Nadler:

On behalf of the nation’s leading digital music providers, including Amazon, Apple, Google, Napster, Pandora, Spotify, and YouTube, the Digital Media Association (“DiMA”) writes to express its support for the prompt enactment of H.R. 5447, the “*Music Modernization Act* (“MMA”) by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Music licensing, as you know, is one of the most challenging and complex areas of federal copyright law. The lack of an authoritative and accurate database of music copyright ownership along with rules designed for an analog world have slowed the growth and development of interactive digital music services. One area in which these challenges are especially acute is the licensing of reproduction and distribution rights of musical works (so-called “mechanical rights”) under Section 115. Current law requires interactive streaming services to obtain mechanical rights on a song-by-song basis, which is inefficient and ineffective in a digital world in which services are adding tens of thousands of songs every month. Without a clear and reliable source of ownership information, each interactive service is on its own to identify and locate thousands of music publishers—and the songwriters they represent.

The MMA creates a blanket licensing system for mechanical rights, which will increase public consumption of licensed music, increase royalties paid out to rights holders, and promote licensing efficiencies.

This blanket licensing system will empower existing interactive music services to expand their catalogs for consumers to lawfully access the music they love. New innovative and compelling listening experiences, together with broader music selection within services, will generate even greater consumer adoption, which will produce more royalties for songwriters for use of the musical works that make interactive music services possible.

We sincerely appreciate all of your hard work and effort in helping to make the Music Modernization Act an even better bill; and upon the bill's passage in the House, we look forward to working with Members of the Senate to further advance the legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chris Harrison

Chief Executive Officer  
Digital Media Association  
chris@dima.org

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee