



March 5, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Nadler, and Members of the Committee:

As Congress prepares to consider the Music Modernization Act (MMA), the bill continues to gain unprecedented support from songwriters across the country.

The Section 115 reforms in the legislation improve how songwriters are paid and allows them to be paid a royalty that better reflects the free market. It establishes a collective to offer blanket licenses to streaming services for mechanical rights and it improves the rate standard by which the Copyright Royalty Board determines royalties for songwriters. The bill also reforms the rate court process for ASCAP and BMI by enabling judges representing a variety of perspectives to consider a broader set of relevant evidence when determining rates for music creators.

The U.S. songwriting community has embraced this legislation. Never before have so many music creators rallied to support a bill. Currently, 26,949 songwriters have signed an identical online petition in support of the MMA which can be viewed here:

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/songwriter-petition-to-congress-pass-the-music-modernization-act.html>;

https://www.bmi.com/advocacy/music_modernization_petition;

<https://www.ascap.com/advocacy/sign-mma-petition/songwriter-petition-to-congress>

Additionally, over 20 major music groups are in support of the bill including the:

National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA)

American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)

Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI)

Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)

Songwriters of North America (SONA)

Songwriters Guild of America (SGA)

Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)

The Recording Academy (GRAMMYS)

American Association of Independent Music (A2IM)

Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP)
Church Music Publishers Association (CMPA)
American Federation of Musicians (AFM)
Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)
Society of Composers and Lyricists (SCL)
SoundExchange (SX)
SX Works
Production Music Association (PMA)
Administrators of Gospel Music (AGM)
Content Creators Coalition (C3)
Music Publishers Association (MPA)
Music Managers Forum (MMF)

In addition to the music groups, the tech industry is behind the bill, including the:

Digital Media Association (DiMA) which represents Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Pandora, Rhapsody, Spotify and YouTube
Internet Association (IA) which represents Google, Facebook, Amazon and Pandora, among others

As you know, a consensus bill will never give both sides exactly what they want, however, the MMA represents a historic level of cross-industry and music creator support.

While we understand no legislation will satisfy every stakeholder in every respect, we feel it is important to understand the level of grassroots momentum behind this piece of legislation as we enter into a phase of considering amendments and potentially marrying the bill to other pieces of music legislation such as the AMP (Allocation for Music Producers) Act and the CLASSICS (Compensating Legacy Artists for their Songs, Service, & Important Contributions to Society) Act, both of which we support.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA)
American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)
Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI)
Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)
Songwriters of North America (SONA)