



The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2017

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding your *Policy Proposal on Reform of the U.S. Copyright Office*. On behalf of Pandora Media, Inc., I offer the following comments.

Pandora is the world's most powerful music discovery platform – a place where artists find their fans and listeners find music they love. We are driven by a single purpose: unleashing the infinite power of music by connecting artists and fans. Founded by musicians, Pandora empowers artists with valuable data and tools to help grow their careers and connect with their fans. As a music company, Pandora strongly supports efforts to evaluate and improve our copyright laws and the function of the Copyright Office.

#### **Pre-1972 Sound Recordings**

Pandora believes that rightsholders for pre-1972 sound recordings should be compensated in the same manner as post-1972 rightsholders. We support many of the conclusions in the Copyright Office report *A Study on the Desirability of and Means for Bringing Sound Recordings Fixed Before February 15, 1973, Under Federal Jurisdiction* (2011) including:

“...the Office believes that section 114’s statutory royalty requirements should apply to nonexempt, noninteractive digital transmissions of those recordings, thereby providing an additional revenue stream for older artists and works. It would also moot the question of whether state laws should provide a public performance right for pre-1972 sound recordings...” (p. 129)

As the Committee considers potential music licensing reforms, we urge legislation to ensure heritage artists are compensated for streams of their sound recordings in the same efficient and transparent manner as post-1972 artists.

#### **Advisory Committees**

Pandora supports the Committee’s proposal to develop Advisory Committees, similar to those of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO), to ensure diverse viewpoints and interests are considered during the Copyright Office decision-making processes. It is critical the Copyright Office consider the impact to *all* stakeholders when fulfilling its mission, including music consumers and the general public.

#### **Access to Copyright Information**

We applaud the Committee’s effort to address the Copyright Office information technology systems. As part of your modernization proposal, we urge the creation of a digital, searchable, public database that includes ownership interests in musical compositions and sound recordings. A copyright database should offer updated and timely access to copyright ownership information. Improved transparency for artists, distributors, and consumers is critical for a functional music economy.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on behalf of Pandora. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on issues related to copyright reform.

Sincerely,

Katie Peters  
Senior Director, Public Policy & Government Relations