

December 9, 2012

Dear Copyright Royalty Judges,

I am a copyright owner. My copyrights have earned RIAA Gold and Platinum status, Grammy Awards, and Billboard Chart placement. They have been used in movie and television soundtracks, and played on radio stations around the globe. My copyrights help feed my family and employ several individuals through my small publishing and production business. My copyrights proudly contribute to the wealth of American Intellectual Property Industries that conservatively make up 30% of US gross domestic product.

But as a copyright owner, I am scared.

My income as a copyright owner is controlled by the Federal Government, I cannot form a union, and as an independent writer/publisher I cannot compete financially with the global corporate entities exploiting my copyrights for profit.

I must depend on you, the US Copyright Office, to establish fair and reasonable rules by which I can do business with those who require the use of my property.

And so, in evaluating the efficacy of the proposed regulations surrounding Section 115 of Copyright Law, I would ask that you be able to answer a few simple questions:

1. Given that the compulsory license allows anyone to exploit my copyright for their profit, does the law require a fair royalty to be paid according to the revenue generated by the licensee?
2. Does the law establish a clear procedure by which a compulsory license must be procured, and consequences for non-compliance that motivate proper procedure?
3. Does the law establish as standard industry procedure my right as a royalty recipient to audit my revenue sources?

Technology is expanding the consumer base of copyrighted material at an exponential rate, benefiting a growing range of businesses. Please protect the creators - you are the only ones who can.

Sincerely,
Lari White
Recording

Artist/Songwriter/Publisher