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June 4, 2019

#### <u>Via email</u>

Steve Ruwe Assistant General Counsel United States Copyright Office Library of Congress 101 Independence Ave. SE Washington, DC 20559-6000

### Re: Docket No. 2018-0011 Summary of meeting regarding designation of the mechanical licensing collective

Dear Mr. Ruwe,

This letter summarizes the May 29, 2019 meeting at the Copyright Office between the Delaware nonprofit corporation Mechanical Licensing Collective ("MLC") and representatives of the Copyright Office ("May 29 Meeting"). MLC thanks the Copyright Office for its time and attention in meeting with MLC concerning the Notice of Inquiry regarding designation of the mechanical licensing collective pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 115(d)(3)(B).

The persons attending the May 29 Meeting for MLC were:

Name	MLC Position	Attendance
Alisa Coleman	Board Member, Chair	In person
Kevin Kadish	Board Member, Vice Chair	Telephonically
Paul Kahn	Board Member, Treasurer	Telephonically
Jeff Brabec	Board Member	Telephonically
Peter Brodsky	Board Member	Telephonically
Bob Bruderman	Board Member	In person
Tim Cohan	Board Member	Telephonically

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Kara DioGuardi	Board Member	Telephonically
David Kokakis	Board Member	In person
Mike Molinar	Board Member	In person
Tim Nichols	Board Member	Telephonically
Evelyn Paglinawan	Board Member	Telephonically
Danielle Aguirre	Nonvoting Board Member	In person
Bart Herbison	Nonvoting Board Member	In person
Richard Thompson	Technology Consultant	Telephonically
Benjamin Semel	Counsel	In person

On behalf of the Copyright Office, Karyn Temple, Regan Smith, Steve Ruwe, Kevin Amer, Jason Sloan and John Riley attended all or part of the meeting in person.

The following summarizes the discussion:

- MLC provided an update as to its technology development efforts. This update discussed the extensive RFI and RFP processes, and the evaluation of vendors to date, a process which has included more than 30 individuals on the MLC side and more than 50 individuals on the vendors' side, and has involved in the aggregate more than 2,000 hours of work by individuals on behalf of MLC. MLC discussed its intended timeline for vendor negotiations, and its intention to utilize a single primary vendor for core usage processing functions, with consideration of secondary vendors to augment in specific areas.
- MLC addressed specifically its plans to provide robust public access to the works database in bulk, machine-readable format, a process that first requires broad assessment of the needs of the public and understanding of the ways in which music industry constituencies will interact with the database. MLC reiterated its commitment to furthering the use of open standards in this regard.
- MLC addressed specifically its commitment to quality matching of usage to works. MLC noted that the vendors being evaluated by MLC all have extensive experience with matching, including tuning and adjusting matching systems based on prior results, and that success in this regard can be measured using value and volume metrics. Testing and evaluation of vendors on matching quality is underway as part of MLC's vendor evaluation process.

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- MLC addressed specifically its intention to maintain unmatched uses in its matching systems for continuous automated attempts to match, and also stressed the importance of robust manual efforts to match uses and locate owners of works, and that automated systems alone cannot maximize matching success. MLC discussed that while policies have not yet been promulgated regarding unclaimed accrued royalties, MLC is committed to minimizing unclaimed accrued royalties, including by exceeding the statutory minimums related to notice and distribution in order to maximize matching success. MLC noted that matching efforts will in part depend on the funding and resources available to MLC, which is why MLC will be making a case for an administrative assessment that supports robust matching operations.
- MLC provided an update as to its governance developments. It identified that the following Officers have been elected: Alisa Coleman (Chair), Kevin Kadish (Vice Chair), Oak Felder (Secretary) and Paul Kahn (Treasurer). It discussed that a number of governance document drafts are currently being considered by the Board, including initial bylaws, a conflicts of interest policy and committee charters. The draft bylaws contain a diversity provision that calls for a biannual report on the diversity of the Board, including diversity as to gender/race/ethnicity, income, musical genre, geography and expertise/experience. The conclusions of the diversity report are to be used by the nominating committees in choosing future candidates for election, and provided to the members for consideration in election voting. MLC discussed the diversity of its current board, its commitment to diversity, and the importance of diversity not merely for governance, but for success in outreach and education as well.
- MLC provided an update as to communications and outreach activities. MLC discussed that numerous educational and outreach documents have been drafted and release is pending the determination on designation. MLC discussed plans for surveys and focus groups to gather information about public needs to assist with design of the rights portal. MLC discussed the extensive participation that it has developed through its Board and Committee members and many endorsers, and the importance of active participation in outreach, including internationally, noting that many groups supporting MLC have international offices that can assist in global outreach. MLC discussed its commitment to inclusion, and its desire to mobilize and work with all stakeholders to further its mission.
- MLC discussed its desire to cooperate and assist the Copyright Office in fulfilling its statutory oversight role, and the importance of the forthcoming Copyright Office

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rulemaking proceedings, which will impact not just the efficiency and effectiveness of the collective's operations, but its technology development as well.

MLC appreciates the Copyright Office's time, effort and thoughtful inquiries, and is available to provide further information on request.

Sincerely yours,

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Benjamin K. Semel