

Before the  
UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT OFFICE  
The Library of Congress

Issues Related to Performing Rights  
Organizations

Docket No. 2025-1

**SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING'S COMMENTS**

Sony Music Publishing (“SMP”) is pleased to provide these comments in response to the Notification of Inquiry regarding the Issues Related to Performing Rights Organizations, 90 Fed. Reg. 9253 (Feb. 10, 2025) (the “NOI”).

At SMP, we believe every voice matters. We are the #1 global music publisher, advancing the artistry of the world’s greatest songwriters and composers. We keep songwriters at the forefront of everything we do, and design our suite of services to amplify opportunities, build connections, and defend their rights. Our roster benefits from an international team committed to providing support and advocacy at every career stage. To address the status of performing rights organizations, it is important to consider the historical context and ongoing constraints of the music licensing landscape.

For decades the music publishing industry in the United States has been heavily regulated by the federal government. These regulations restrict the ability of songwriters and publishers to negotiate freely in the open market and have the effect of depressing the value of musical compositions which are the lifeblood of the music industry. For example, the federal government sets rates for mechanical reproductions via Section 115 of the Copyright Act and, since the 1940s, the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees have governed licensing practices for most of the market for performance rights. These regulations have resulted in depressed rates for musical compositions as compared to analogous

rights licensed in a free market. The additional regulations being advocated for by certain licensees is likely to further reduce the artificially low license fees they already pay.

SMP believes that less and not more regulation is not only good for songwriters but also a sensible pro-competitive approach where the true value of musical compositions is determined in a free market. We respectfully urge the Copyright Office and Congress to work with the music publishing industry to decrease regulation and to provide for increased freedom of choice for music publishers in relation to the licensing of performance and mechanical rights. A market free from regulations that unnecessarily reduce the value of musical compositions is the only way for songwriters to receive fair compensation for their valuable work.

SMP thanks the Copyright Office for the opportunity to make this submission.

Respectively submitted



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