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June 21, 2021

The Society of Composers & Lyricists (SCL) writes to applaud you for introducing H.R. 3816, *The American Innovation and Choice Online Act*. As you may know, SCL is the premier US organization for music creators working in all forms of visual media, including film, television, video games, and musical theatre.

IN MEMORIAM

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SCL has long operated with the simple belief that our most crucial role is to protect the rights and livelihoods of composers, lyricists and songwriters. That is why we were heartened to hear about the introduction of this extremely important legislation that would help protect and promote competition, particularly in the creative space, by holding Big Tech in check. For years, large tech platforms have built much of their businesses off the backs of the creative industry. By facilitating easy access to unlicensed, infringing content, these companies grew from quaint startups into global behemoths.

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It will come as no surprise to you that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn has had a profoundly damaging impact on the creative industries. Recording studios, production houses, songwriter gatherings, concert venues, playhouses, and movie theaters across the world were shuttered or cancelled, millions lost their jobs, and the disposable incomes often spent on creative pursuits instead went to basic necessities. The recovery of creative industries hinges on Congress and the Biden Administration working with stakeholders to strengthen IP rights and foster protections, incentives, and innovation.

We appreciate the hard work that you and the House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee have put in examining ways to hold Big Tech accountable. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the SCL may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Irwin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley Irwin
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