

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

April 8, 2019

Dear Colleague,

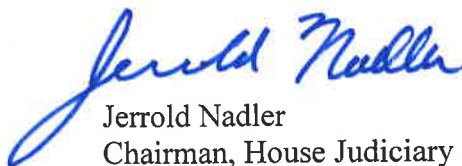
As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over copyright law, our approach to complex music issues has been to advance proactive, consensus-based proposals that move the American marketplace forward. Last year's landmark Orrin G. Hatch-Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act (MMA) proved that with Congressional leadership, and by working with all stakeholders, we can improve the landscape for creators, platforms, and the American public.

In our experience, the best way to move forward in this space is to place consensus-building over efforts that divide the parties. The Judiciary Committee remains committed to addressing the issue of radio broadcast performance rights, that is, whether radio should pay royalties to recording artists and record labels when playing their works, taking account of the views of both music creators and broadcasters. Resolutions that over-simplify the issue by calling this royalty a "tax" make it more difficult for the Committee to do its job and work with the parties to come to a consensus solution.

In that vein, we respectfully ask that instead of supporting such resolutions, you instead work with us to help resolve this longstanding issue. This issue must be corrected in a manner that reflects market realities while respecting the unique needs of small, rural, and community radio. We are committed to that, but we need your help.

Just as the seemingly intractable issues of the MMA were resolved in the last Congress, we know that working together we can resolve the long-standing conflict of fair compensation to creators and fair treatment of broadcasters through a similar consensus-building legislative approach. Rather than supporting the rhetoric of the past, we look forward to working with you and the broadcast and music industries to solve this issue for the future.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee



Doug Collins
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee