



THE RECORDING ACADEMY®

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July 10, 2013

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of The Recording Academy, thank you for initiating a comprehensive review of copyright law and for your fair and reasoned approach to this complex topic.

The Recording Academy is the trade association representing music performers, songwriters and studio professionals. The Academy also represents independent artists, a rapidly growing segment of the music community. Knowing of your reputation for considering all sides of an issue, I wanted to take this opportunity to present the music creator's viewpoint.

As our nation's copyright law empowers individuals to create and protects their creative work, the voice of the creator should be at the center of any copyright review. As the House Judiciary Committee continues to conduct hearings on this important subject, I urge you to invite individual creators to testify and otherwise inform the Committee. The Recording Academy is ready and able to provide such experts, not only for music issues, but also for the broad issues surrounding copyright.

Some copyright issues are unique to the music community. These issues include: establishing a public performance right for sound recordings that includes terrestrial radio; reforming the compulsory license for digital music services in a way that compensates artists with fair market value for their work and provides parity between platforms; and modernizing Sec. 115 of the Copyright Act to make it easier for songwriters and music publishers to license compositions to digital music services.

As noted by the Register of Copyrights during her testimony to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet on March 20, these music issues are “ripe for resolution.” Over the past few years, the House Judiciary Committee has invested significant time and energy on each of these issues. Accordingly, I am encouraged that you have expressed a willingness to move legislation to address music licensing and related matters prior to the broader review of copyright law. I urge you to call all relevant stakeholders in the music community together to help move a legislative solution forward.

In conclusion, thank you for your steadfast commitment to protecting copyright and for recognizing its critical role in incentivizing creativity and innovation. Please know that The Recording Academy is ready to partner with you to ensure a successful outcome to the House Judiciary Committee’s comprehensive review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daryl", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Daryl P. Friedman  
Chief Advocacy & Industry Relations Officer

cc:  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee