



April 9, 2015

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler and Congressman Blackburn:

On behalf of the RIAA¹ and its member companies, we applaud your efforts to address longstanding inequities in the current music licensing system that prevent musicians and record labels from being compensated fairly for their work. By recognizing a sound recording performance right for terrestrial radio and bringing all music platforms under a “willing buyer – willing seller” rate standard, your proposed legislation would ensure that music creators are paid according to fair market principles.

With respect to pre-1972 sound recordings, we do not believe that legislation is necessary at this juncture given the recent litigation successes in this area. That said, we endorse your clear statement that pre-72 music has value and deserves respect, and we look forward to continued discussions about how best to ensure that music creators are fairly and properly compensated across all platforms.

Sincerely,

Cary Sherman
Chairman and CEO
Recording Industry Association of America

¹ RIAA is the trade association that represents the music companies that create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 85% of all legitimate recorded music produced and sold in the United States.