



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 9, 2019**

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## **DiMA Statement on the Justice Department Review of the ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. [August 9, 2019]** — Garrett Levin, CEO of the Digital Media Association (DiMA), issued the following statement today on the close of the public comment period for the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division’s ongoing review of the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. DiMA, along with the Radio Music License Committee (RMLC), jointly submitted comments to DOJ defending the decrees’ vital role in the music industry and calling for the formation of a blue-ribbon federal advisory committee to better facilitate necessary public participation from stakeholders across the music industry.

“We are living in a golden age of music in which fans and creators alike are benefiting from a highly competitive marketplace that allows any piece of music to be enjoyed wherever and whenever we want, all at the push of the button. This benefits music fans, artists, songwriters and all of us in the music ecosystem, which is why it is no surprise that everyone from small businesses and restaurants to the streaming platforms DiMA represents have had a singular message for the Justice Department: the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees are vital to ensuring a robust and competitive music marketplace today and for the future.

The competitive protections provided by the decrees have been a cornerstone in the successful evolution of the U.S. music industry into the economic and cultural juggernaut it is today. Terminating or choosing an arbitrary end date for these well-established decrees prior to a new legal framework being established would thrust the music marketplace into chaos. And make no mistake, the resulting chaos will be felt by everyone in the music industry, but most of all by consumers: prices will rise, competition will deteriorate and the quality and variety of music readily available to music fans will decline.

Given the paramount importance of maintaining these competitive protections, DiMA and the Radio Music License Committee today called on the Department of Justice to formally establish a blue-ribbon federal advisory committee to assist in the review

process. Such a committee of industry stakeholders, including artist and consumer representatives, could fully study the decrees and provide helpful policy recommendations to DOJ and Congress. This is a critical step to guaranteeing a vibrant competitive music marketplace for today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.”

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**About The Digital Media Association (DiMA)**

DiMA is the leading organization advocating for the digital music innovations that have created unparalleled consumer choice and revolutionized the way music fans and artists connect. Representing the world’s leading music streaming companies – Amazon Music, Apple Music, Google/YouTube, Pandora and Spotify – DiMA’s mission is to promote and protect the ability of music fans to engage with creative content whenever and wherever they want and for artists to more easily reach old fans and make new ones. [www.DiMA.org](http://www.DiMA.org)