



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

October 03, 2017

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner,

You have zeroed in on an important copyright issue in music licensing. Local business owners want to compensate artists, but it is often confusing and complicated to figure out exactly where to make payments. A database as to who owns what license in a piece of musical work would make it much easier for artists to receive payment for their creations, for registries to locate recipients, to decrease liability concerns from registries, and to encourage continued creativity and collaboration.

Your leadership, calling attention to this issue, is appreciated, and we believe you can help guide this process without government involving itself in a matter best handled by the private sector. Transparency in Music Licensing and Ownership Act, calls for the Library of Congress to create and maintain this database. However, the Library of Congress already has a poor track record of maintaining databases and employing modern technologies. Nor does it have a particularly good record of registering copyrights and recording copyright transfers.

Given the Library of Congress' poor record in copyright cataloguing, we believe that businesses and creators will end up with more of the same confusion rather than a solution.

We hope you will work to encourage a private marketplace solution instead of a government one.

If you should have any questions regarding this issue please contact me, or Katie McAuliffe at kmcauliffe@atr.org or 202-785-0266.

Onward,

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