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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY
VICE CHAIRMAN OF COURTS,
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE
INTERNET
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL
AND ANTITRUST LAW
COMMITTEE ON RULES
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE
CREATIVE RIGHTS CAUCUS

January 12, 2016

The Honorable Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
Washington, DC 20559

Dear Register Pallante,

As you well know, over the past two years the House Judiciary Committee has conducted an extensive review of the Copyright Act to determine if it is working properly in the digital age. As the Vice-Chairman of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee, one area of particular interest to me during this process has been how statutory and other government regulations are preventing fair compensation to songwriters.

The increased scrutiny on the current music licensing system by Congress and executive branch entities has understandably raised many questions. Most recently, questions have been raised surrounding the scope of the rights granted by performing rights organizations (PROs) that license musical works subject to federal consent decrees. For my benefit as I continue to examine these issues, I would appreciate the Copyright Office's views regarding the licensing of jointly-owned works by the PROs, and, specifically, what issues lawmakers and regulators should consider to avoid further eroding the property interests of musical composition owners.

I appreciate your timely response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Collins".

Doug Collins
Member of Congress