

August 4, 2008

Dear Music Producer,

Enclosed is a short bullet point description of the Performance Rights Act (PRA), a bill which was recently introduced to both houses of Congress. This important piece of legislation would reverse a great injustice and is relevant to music producers for several reasons. It needs your support.

The lobbyists for over-the-air, broadcast radio (also called terrestrial radio) have plenty of money to oppose this legislation and they are fighting hard to make sure that the PRA doesn't pass. They claim that the promotion radio provides to songs by playing them is compensation enough, and that artists don't need to be paid for their performances. They also claim that the payments this bill would require broadcasters to make are a new "tax," which is completely false. It is a payment to music creators, not a tax payment to the government.

The Recording Academy has taken a leadership role in passing this legislation. It is a founding member of the musicFIRST Coalition with a seat on its Executive Board. Passage will be difficult, but it is the right thing to do.

How does The Performance Rights Act help music producers? Just as with current SoundExchange royalties for Internet and satellite radio, depending on their contract, producers may be entitled to royalties. There is even a possibility that the process could be streamlined for producers in the terrestrial rights. In these difficult times for the music business, opening a new stream of income for artists (that takes nothing away from songwriters and publishers and that accommodates small broadcasters with reduced fees) can only help increase the amount of money available to pay producers.

As members of the recording community, it is important for us to support fairness for *all* music creators. Please let your congressional representatives know that you support the Performance Rights Act. It's easy. Just go to www.grammy.com/musicfirst enter your 9-digit zip code, and you can send an email (already drafted or write your own) to your representatives. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maureen Droney
Executive Director/Producers & Engineers Wing



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