

DECEMBER 29, 2022

**Copyright Royalty Board Judges Take the Easy Way Out and Deliver  
Status Quo Ruling To All American Songwriters and Music Publishers,  
With No Significant Increase to Rates and No Inflation Adjustment**

"This ruling proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that it is now time to permanently abolish the cruel and inhumane 1909 compulsory license on *all* American songwriters and music publishers who have no recourse but to leave the music industry, give up on their hopes and dreams, and find work driving Uber, or the food service industry, etc. Continuing to price-fix *all* U.S songwriters and music publishers at \$.00012 cents per-stream with zero inflation indexing so that 3 foreign-owned record labels and a handful of the world's largest Big-tech corporations can profit on the backs of artists is sickening, not representative of a free-market as required, and un-American. This ruling is a complete debacle, proving the Copyright Royalty Board is out of touch with the practical reality of songwriters and the Judges simply took the easy way out which is devastating."

"In short, it's time to *abolish the compulsory license* on all American songwriters which would make the Copyright Royalty Board rate-setting process moot and finally give us what we all deserve – *a free market in music*. If Congress refuses to act, it's time for real attorneys to step up and use the Courts to abolish the Copyright Royalty Board and stop this price-fixing of American songwriters at *zero cents* per-song once and for all."

"The Judges ruled earlier this year that a reasonable CPI-U inflation indexing was required and not only ignored their own ruling, but ignored the reasonable arguments of hundreds of thousands of professional songwriters and publishers to add a simple cost of living adjustment (COLA) to streaming rates at a time of rampant national monetary inflation at 7% to 9% percent year-over-year, the highest in 40 years – like American songwriters are not affected by or immune to 9% percent inflation."

"Ironically and hypocritically *our own* songwriter and publisher lobbyists at NMPA and NSAI, who only work for the interests of 3 major record labels, fought me for 7 long years to make sure there was no inflation indexing for their own songwriters at the 3 major publishers and no increases for *all of their millions of American competitors* – a serious antitrust issue."

"American songwriters have *never* had cost of living adjustment the past 16 years of rate-setting for streaming rates, and the Judges took the easy way out by weaseling out of their own inflation indexing ruling this year. All hope is now lost for the Copyright Royalty Board to ever do the right thing and this process must be abolished once and for all by Congress, or the Courts. The Judges refused to even let us litigate our valid arguments at hearing, bypassing the process which lets these corporations once again "short circuit" or "hack" this broken government price-fixing scam."

"So, we pray that Congress and the Judiciary Committee will take immediate action in 2023 and be sympathetic to the issue of layman like myself (and all other songwriter Commenters) providing proof to Copyright Judges on complicated matters of economics and law when the very American songwriters whose interests (and lives) are *burdened* by these rates and terms *don't have the money to hire the very economists or lawyers needed to make that proof.*"

"No American painter, photographer, book author, illustrator, journalist, actor, screenwriter, producer, or any other copyright author is subject to a compulsory license and Congress, or the Courts, must deliver freedom to an industry now plagued by involuntary servitude at \$.00012 rates, substituting for sales, ignoring our costs – in other words "song slavery".

"Who knows how many more brilliant American songwriters and music publishers will have to leave the music industry, who have already left since the CRB was created? This extremely flawed ruling is contrary to the public good and only benefits Vivendi Corp in France, Sony Corp in Japan, Access Industries Russia/United States, Warner Music Group, Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, Google, Apple, Amazon, Spotify, Pandora, SiriusXM, their investors and stockholders, and that's it."

#### RULING

[https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2022-28316.pdf?utm\\_source=federalregister.gov&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list](https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2022-28316.pdf?utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list)

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