

March 19, 2020



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell,
Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer,

Thank you for your leadership during this time of unprecedented challenge to our collective public health, individual health, and the health of our economy. We commend you for coming together quickly and in a bipartisan manner to pass two important measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, as we are all no doubt aware, it is becoming painfully apparent that additional economic stimulus and relief legislation is going to be necessary. With that in mind, we write today to urge you to not forget our nation's songwriters and composers and include assistance for them in any pandemic assistance legislation forthcoming.

As you may be aware, songwriters and composers are, in many cases, our nation's ultimate small businesses. They often operate independently and without the traditional safety net in the form of health insurance and retirement plans that many traditional employees enjoy. In fact, in recent years as the music industry has shifted to a streaming marketplace, the ranks of the talented men and women who write so much of the music we know and love have already been decimated.

Our friends and partners in the bar, restaurant, airline, fitness, theater, live concert & hotel industries face very real threats to their businesses, and their temporary closures mean a significant source of income for songwriters and composers is also at risk. These music creators rely heavily on these industries for a substantial portion of their income, not only as venues for them to perform their works, but also for the royalties they earn through the public performance of their music in many of these businesses.

Many Americans turn to music, films and television to help get them through times of crisis such as these. The devastating economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will certainly be felt by them and it is critically important that assistance for the creators of the world's best music be included in any additional stimulus legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to address the pandemic's effect on our music creators around the country.

Elizabeth Matthews
CEO
ASCAP

Mike O'Neill
President & CEO
BMI

David Israelite
President & CEO
NATIONAL MUSIC
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Bart Herbison
Executive Director
NSAI

John Josephson
Chairman & CEO
SESAC

Rick Carnes
President
SONGWRITERS GUILD
OF AMERICA

Michelle Lewis
Executive Director
SONGWRITERS OF
NORTH AMERICA