



THE RECORDING ACADEMY®

GRAMMYS ON THE HILL®

REPRESENTING MUSIC'S CREATORS

November 29, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump  
Office of the Presidential Transition  
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

We, the undersigned members of The Recording Academy's National Advocacy Committee, write to congratulate you and to reach out to you about the current state of the music economy for creators across America. The Recording Academy is the only organization that represents the interests of all music creators: the songwriters, performers, producers and engineers who create American recordings.

As your administration begins to chart its course, this is an important moment to ensure the continued viability of music as one of America's greatest exports and as an integral part of the American innovation story, fueled by the entrepreneurial spirit of the men and women who make up the creative workforce. In 2015, the U.S. music industry contributed \$15 billion dollars to the American economy, creating jobs in every state.

Today, music lovers have more ways to listen to music than ever before. But the laws governing the sale and distribution of music have failed to keep pace with technology, keeping music creators from receiving fair market value for their work. These outdated laws, stemming from the turn of the last century, have weakened the value of American intellectual property in foreign markets to the tune of tens of millions of dollars in unpaid royalties.

The Recording Academy and our members across the country are working with Congress to fix the broken copyright system. We hope that the 115th Congress, with support from your administration, will conclude its review of copyright and act to support creators. Copyright reform continues to enjoy bipartisan support on Capitol Hill and among a broad group of stakeholders.

We look forward to working with your administration to support the music economy. We urge you to support reform of outdated laws and oppose any regulation that would diminish the value of these creators' hard work and property rights.

Thank you for your consideration, and we wish you great success.

Sincerely,

Brandon Bush, Musician/Songwriter  
Rodney Jerkins, GRAMMY-Winning Musician/Songwriter/Producer  
Ann Mincieli, GRAMMY-Winning Engineer  
Kim "KEM" Owens, Musician/Songwriter  
John Poppo, Producer/Engineer/Songwriter & Board Chair of The Recording Academy  
Neil Portnow, President/CEO, The Recording Academy  
Nile Rodgers, GRAMMY-Winning Musician/Songwriter/Producer  
Dan Warner, GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY-Winning Musician