May 12, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Steve Crocker
Chairman of the Board
ICANN
(steve.crocker@icann.org)

Mr. Fadi Chehade
CEO
ICANN
(fadi.chehade@icann.org)

Re: MUSIC Community Application

Dear Messrs. Crocker and Chehade:

We write on behalf of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). RIAA is the trade group that represents the U.S. recording industry. Our mission is to foster a business and legal climate that supports and promotes our members’ creative and financial vitality. Our members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 85% of all legitimate sound recordings produced and sold in the United States.

As you may know from our prior letters to you, our members have a vested interest in ensuring the digital marketplace evolves into a mature, innovative and safe environment for the legitimate creation and dissemination of music. Today, more than 67% of the sound recording revenues in the U.S. coming from digital sources. It is not only that the digital ecosystem is our future, it is very much our present.

Unfortunately, the digital ecosystem has also been awash with piracy, and online copyright infringement of our members’ works is rampant. Given this, we believe there should be strong protections against online copyright infringement in all TLDs, whether legacy gTLDs or new gTLDs, and that any gTLDs that particularly target music or digital content should have increased commitments to guard against such infringement. These safeguards are critical to
protect the public interest in the creation and dissemination of music and other cultural works, and to ensure the DNS ecosystem, and its constituents can be trusted to help create a safe, legitimate and innovative Internet. We expect ICANN to ensure this happens in a responsible and effective manner.

With respect to .music, we support applicants that have publicly committed to, and will be bound to, implement meaningful safeguards to protect against online copyright infringement. Given the PIC specifications recently submitted by DotMusic Limited for their community application, we believe DotMusic Limited has made such commitments. Accordingly, we support this applicant (in addition to our support for the other community priority applicant for .music).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Recording Industry Association of America, Inc.

[Signature]

Mr. Steven M. Marks
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