

John Watson Management

Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAIR PAY
FOR RADIO PLAY) BILL

Dear Committee,

My companies manage leading Australian artists including Birds of Tokyo, Cold Chisel, Missy Higgins, Midnight Oil and The Presets. I write as a business owner, and on my clients' behalf, to support the Fair Pay For Radio Play Bill ("The Bill").

The Bill corrects a legislative anachronism which protects radio stations from normal commercial negotiations over the rates they pay for the broadcast of sound recordings. Multiple Government Inquiries have all concluded that reform is needed to remove the artificial and arbitrary "1% of gross revenue" cap on royalties so as to restore equity to singers and musicians plus the labels who fund these recordings.

It is important to note that *songwriters* receive a separate significantly higher rate for the broadcast of their compositions because they are not subject to this 1% cap. This can lead to highly inequitable situations where a songwriter is paid significantly more than the other members of their band with whom they performed the song.

I urge you to please consider this important reform which would allow the market to operate normally and provide more equitable outcomes than are current possible.

Sincerely

JOHN WATSON

(President John Watson Management and Eleven: a music company)

Australia

P.O. box 126 strawberry hills n.s.w. 2012 PH (61) 2 9310 1000 fax (61) 2 9310 1923

a.b.n. 37 072 592 917