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Subcommittee on Immigration,
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and International Law



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HOWARD L. BERMAN

28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

United States House of Representatives

November 11, 2010

Dear Members of the Organizing Committee for the AMCL:

I've heard about your efforts to organize composers and lyricists for the purpose of bargaining for health and pension benefits. For years now I have supported attempts by composers and lyricists to be given a seat at the table.

Since the NLRB last considered whether composers and lyricists should have the right to organize, the need for your members to be able to collectively bargain has only increased. In the intervening decades, there have been dramatic changes in the methods and media by which your works are distributed as part of motion pictures, television programming, and other audio visual works. These new opportunities should benefit composers and lyricists to the same extent as other creators and the producers themselves.

Collective bargaining provides writers, directors, and virtually every other creative talent in the industry the ability to secure the benefits you are seeking. There is no question that composers and lyricists deserve the same right.

I wish you and your members much success and, as always, stand by ready to help in whatever way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard L. Berman".

HOWARD L. BERMAN

Member of Congress