



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2012

CONTACTS:

Kristen Hainen for musicFIRST 202-334-1115

Marie Knowles for SoundExchange 202-640-5890

125 ARTISTS UNITE TO OPPOSE PANDORA'S SUBSIDY: "NOT FAIR AND NOT HOW PARTNERS WORK TOGETHER"

Common, Dead Kennedys, Missy Elliot, Vince Gill, Don Henley, Billy Joel, Maroon 5, Martha Reeves, David Sanborn, Michael W. Smith, and Roger Waters join peers from across all genres and generations in opposing new cuts to artists' pay. 125 artists, including 40 GRAMMY winners, express opposition.

Washington, D.C. - A who's-who of musicians and singers, including stars from Motown, rock and roll, country, rap and jazz, today released an open letter to be published in this weekend's *Billboard* Magazine opposing Pandora's plan to cut artists' pay when music is played over Internet radio. [Click here to view the letter.](#)

The stars praised Pandora – “We are big fans” – and celebrated the company's commercial success. But with massive growth in revenues and a successful IPO under its belt, they asked why Pandora is pushing Congress to slash musicians' pay. “That's not fair and that's not how partners work together,” the open letter explains.

“These artists have joined together to tell Pandora it's time to go back to the drawing board. We all want Internet radio to succeed, but it won't if it tries to do so on the backs of hard working musicians and singers,” said musicFIRST Executive Director Ted Kalo.

Internet radio companies such as Pandora are pushing Congress to pass the “Internet Radio Fairness Act,” H.R. 6480/S. 3609, which could slash by 85 percent royalties paid to musicians and artists when their songs are played over Internet radio. Musicians and singers across all musical genres depend on these royalties, which are often their only compensation for their work.

“This issue is critical to the tens-of-thousands of recording artists we represent – all of whom rely on this digital performance revenue stream to make a living,” said SoundExchange President Michael Huppe. “It is important that we protect artists and the long-term value of their music, which is, after all, the foundation of Internet radio.”

###

About musicFIRST

The goal of musicFIRST is to ensure that performers, local musicians, music businesses and artists are compensated when their music is played both today and in the future. Of all the ways we listen to music, AM/FM radio is the only one that receives special treatment through a loophole that allows them to make billions of dollars from advertising without paying performance rights for the music they air on the radio. The musicFIRST Coalition is

committed to making sure everyone, from up-and-coming artists to favorites from years-ago, is guaranteed Fair Pay for Airplay.

About SoundExchange

SoundExchange is the non-profit performance rights organization that represents the entire recorded music industry. The organization collects statutory royalties from satellite radio, internet radio, cable TV music channels and other services that stream sound recordings. The Copyright Royalty Board, created by Congress, has entrusted SoundExchange as the only entity in the United States to collect and distribute these digital performance royalties for featured recording artists and master rights owners. SoundExchange has paid out more than \$1 billion in royalties since its inception. For more information, visit www.SoundExchange.com or www.facebook.com/soundexchange.

Letter:

A MUSICIANS' PERSPECTIVE ON PANDORA

We are big fans of Pandora. That's why we helped give the company a discount on rates for the past decade.

Pandora is now enjoying phenomenal success as a Wall Street company. Skyrocketing growth in revenues and users. We celebrate that. At the same time, the music community is just now beginning to gain its footing in this new digital world

Pandora's principal asset is the music.

Why is the company asking Congress once again to step in and gut the royalties that thousands of musicians rely upon? That's not fair and that's not how partners work together.

Congress has many pressing issues to consider, but this is not one of them. Let's work this out as partners and continue to bring fans the great musical experience they rightly expect.