Ref: Letter of support:

Date: 22.2.12

Dear Paul,

With reference to your recent request for support towards the TLD domain .music, the Music Producers Guild (UK/EU) would like to offer support in writing towards the ‘Far further’ campaign goal to seek a secure a legal domain for music assets and content.

We sincerely hope the creation of the .music gTLD will generate a legitimate and secure identifying Internet address for the music industry that supports the promotion of music, the full protection of intellectual property rights, and the advancement of global music IP education.

Illegal downloading simply means no chart returns and possibly no future music industry investments for jobs and opportunities for young people and their new bands. It also means the world wide industry has been robbed of any immediate opportunity to offer cheaper downloads based on wider legal access still sadly competing with unregulated and blatant counterfeit/fraud music sites. We sincerely hope .music gTLD creation will help the fight against online piracy and wish to support your moves towards those aims.

With Sincere Regards

Mark Rose (Vice Chair)
Steve Levine (Chair)
Richard Lightman (Vice Chair)
March 11, 2012

Re: Community Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

The Music Publishers Association of the United States would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

Founded in 1895, the Music Publishers Association is the oldest music trade organization in the United States, fostering communication among publishers, dealers, music educators, and all ultimate users of music. This non-profit association addresses itself to issues pertaining to every area of music publishing with an emphasis on the issues relevant to the publishers of print music for concert and educational purposes.

The MPA serves the industry through its presence at and cooperation with other organizations such as, the American Choral Directors Association, the American Music Center, the American Music Conference, the American Symphony Orchestra League, the Church Music Publishers Association, the International Confederation of Music Publishers, the International Federation of Serious Music Publishers, the Music Library Association, the Major Orchestra Librarians’ Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Orchestra Association, the Music Teachers National Association, and the Retail Print Music Dealers Association.

In addition, MPA members belong to and work cooperatively with the National Music Publisher’s Association, the Harry Fox Agency and, the performance rights organizations: ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC.

Our members have been deeply affected by the growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. It has presented both an opportunity and a threat. In the sense that it has facilitated rampant theft of copyrighted music, it has been very harmful to our community. Therefore, with the advent of new music-themed TLDs we are very interested making sure that any such new TLD operates in a manner that encourages the broad distribution and enjoyment of music but also respects intellectual property rights and discourages infringement.
In the months prior to the application window, several entities with an interest in operating a music themed gTLD, reached out to various music related trade associations to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with several other music related trade associations representing a cross-section of the global music community, participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gTLD. As part of that process, this group of associations requested information concerning, among other things, the respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally as well as its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its whois commitments, its proposed registrar requirements, and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the group about their proposed plans, and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.

Based on the above, The Music Publishers Association supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string “.music”. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC), led by executives who have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community, will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects artists’ and owner’s rights in copyrighted music and promotes the legitimate distribution and enjoyment of music.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lauren@laurenkeisermusic.com.

Sincerely,

Lauren Keiser
President
The Music Publishers Association of the United States
National
Songwriters
Association

California Songwriters Association
Nashville Songwriters Association International
Texas Songwriters Association

April 9, 2012

ICANN
Attn: Stephen Crocker
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Ray, CA 90292-6601

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Songwriters Association is writing in support of Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .musicLLC) Application for a Music Focused gLTD under the string “.music”.

The National Songwriters Association includes the California, Nashville and Texas Songwriter Associations. Founded in 1967, the NSA is the largest not-for-profit trade association for songwriters. We have more than 140 chapters and focus on advocacy for American songwriters and composers.

Mission Statement

The National Songwriters Association (NSA) consists of a body of creative minds, including songwriters from all genres of music, professional and amateur, who are committed to protecting the rights and future of the profession of songwriting, and to educate, elevate, and celebrate the songwriter and to act as a unifying force within the music community and the community at large.
Over the past several years the ranks of professional songwriters and composers in the United States has shrunk dramatically in large part due to illegal downloading of copyrighted music. Copyright infringement has decimated songwriter royalties and is an ongoing threat to compensated creativity worldwide.

Along with other music-industry trade associations, the NSA participated in an extensive request for information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gLTD.

The National Songwriters Association trusts that Far Further, based on its core principals, will guide and operate the Music Focused gLTD under the string “music,” in a way that values and protects copyrighted materials. Therefore, the NSA supports the application of Far Further (or its subsidiary .musicLLC) Application for a Music Focused gLTD under the string “.music”.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. For questions of more information please contact: Steve Bogard at (615) 256-3354, or sbogard@mac.com

Sincerely,

Steve Bogard, President
National Songwriters Association

NSA is a Not-For-Profit Member Trade Association For Songwriters
1710 Roy Acuff Place, Nashville, TN 37203
telephone (615)256-3354/fax (615)-256-0034/
website: www.californiasongwriters.com
www.nashvillesongwriters.com
April 5, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of our members, I am sending this letter in support of Far Further/.music LLC’s application for the .music Top-Level Domain.

Our organization, National Association for Music Education, among the world's largest arts education organizations, marked its centennial in 2007 as the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. Through membership of more than 75,000 active, retired, and preservice music teachers, and with 60,000 honor students and supporters, NAfME serves millions of students nationwide through activities at all teaching levels, from preschool to graduate school. NAfME's mission is to advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music by all. Since 1907, NAfME has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. NAfME activities and resources have been largely responsible for the establishment of music education as a profession, for the promotion and guidance of music study as an integral part of the school curriculum, and for the development of the National Standards for Arts Education.

It is vitally important that the .music domain is synonymous with integrity. The principals behind Far Further have been part of the music community for decades and we trust that they will operate .music in the best interests of the legitimate music community. We have carefully reviewed their programs and are confident in their experience and expertise regarding all aspects of operating this particular domain.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Butera
Executive Director and CEO
April 2, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

We are sending this letter in support of Far Further/.music LLC’s application for the .music Top-Level Domain.

Our organization, NAMM, the National Association of Music Merchants, a not-for-profit association that unifies, leads and strengthens the $17 billion global music products industry. Founded in 1901, NAMM represents a growing, thriving worldwide community of thousands of deeply passionate, talented companies that make, buy and sell the instruments that allow millions of people to make music. With more than 9,000 Members in the United States and 100+ other countries, NAMM is ultimately dedicated to expanding the market and giving people of all ages the opportunity to experience the proven benefits of making music.

It is vitally important that the .music domain is synonymous with integrity. The principals behind Far Further have been part of the music community for decades and we trust that they will operate .music in the best interests of the legitimate music community. We met with them and have carefully reviewed their programs and are confident in their experience and expertise regarding all aspects of operating this particular domain.

Sincerely,

Shawn Lowery
Director of IT and Communications
January 16, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past 54 years, the National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM) has been the trade association for the business of music, providing a central platform for the discussion of industry-wide concerns and spearheading the implementation of programs and services to advance the business. Our newest initiative, digitalmusic.org, has been established as the hub for all of our digital efforts. Our General Membership consists of music commerce companies, including brick-and-mortar, online and mobile music delivery companies, as well as streaming, application and related service providers. Our Associate Membership consists of content companies, including distributors, record labels, multimedia suppliers, and technology companies, as well as suppliers of related products and services. Individual professionals and educators in the field of music are also members.

Our members’ businesses have been devastated for more than a decade by the proliferation of intellectually property theft via web sites and other digital means for obtaining music illegally. There is no question that digital technology has been good for the music business in many ways, but it has also developed into a means for people around the world to unlawfully obtain music for free – to the detriment of our members specifically, and the music economy generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any “.music” top-level domain is operated by an entity that not only has the organizational, technical and financial capability to do so, but also a commitment to understanding and respecting the needs and interests of the legitimate music community.

Based on our knowledge of the executives who are guiding Far Further, and after reviewing their plans and programs with them, NARM/digitalmusic.org would like to go on record with its support of their application to operate the “.music” domain.

Sincerely,

Jim Donio,
President
February 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The members of the National Music Council, who together represent some one million individuals, send this letter in support of Far Further/.music LLC’s application for the .music Top-Level Domain.

The National Music Council of the United States was founded in 1940 and chartered by the 84th Congress in 1956 to act as a clearinghouse for the joint opinion and decision of its members and to work to strengthen the importance of music in the nation’s life and culture. The Music Council represents the United States to the International Music Council of UNESCO. The Council’s initial membership of 13 has grown to almost 50 national music organizations, encompassing every important form of professional and commercial musical activity and education.

The protection of intellectual property rights is vitally important to our members. For that reason, we want to do our part to ensure that any music-themed generic top-level domains are operated in the best interests of the legitimate music community. We understand that Far Further intends to apply for the .music TLD. The principals behind Far Further have been part of the music community for decades and we trust that they will operate .music with the highest degree of integrity. They are known by many of our members and we have carefully reviewed their programs. We are confident in their experience and expertise regarding all aspects of operating this particular domain.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Sanders
Director
March 30, 2012

ICANN
Attn: Stephen Crocker
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601
USA

Re: Community Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Music Publishers’ Association would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

Founded in 1917, the National Music Publishers’ Association (NMPA) is the trade association representing American music publishers and their songwriting partners. The NMPA’s mandate is to protect and advance the interests of music publishers and songwriters in matters relating to the domestic and global protection of music copyrights.

Our members’ businesses and livelihoods have been deeply affected by the growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. It has transformed how musical compositions and recorded music is created and consumed. It presents both growth opportunities in the form of varied digital distribution channels for music as well as significant threats in the form of rampant online copyright infringement of copyrighted music. This widespread infringement has been to the detriment of our members specifically and to the music community and economy generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any music themed or focused gTLD operates in a manner that encourages the broad distribution and enjoyment of music in a manner that respects intellectual property rights and discourages infringement.

In the months prior to the application window, several entities with an interest in operating a music themed gTLD, reached out to various music related trade associations to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with several other music related trade associations representing a cross-section of the global music community, participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gTLD. As part of that
process, this group of associations requested information concerning, among other things, the respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally as well as its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its proposed registrar requirements, and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the group about their proposed plans, and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.

Based on the above, NMPA supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string “.music” for the benefit of the music community. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC), led by executives who have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community, will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects artists’ and owner’s rights in copyrighted music and promotes the legitimate distribution and enjoyment of music.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Jay Rosenthal, Esq., Sr. VP & General Counsel, National Music Publishers’ Association (jrosenthal@nmpa.org).

Sincerely,

Jay Rosenthal, Esq.

cc: John Styll, Far Further
Dr. Stephen Crocker, ICANN
To whom It May Concern

Sub: Community support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music focused gTLD under the string ".music"

1. We, Phonographic Performance Ltd ("PPL") hereby express our support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music focused gTLD under the string ".music".

2. PPL is the officially registered and recognised "copyright society" in India which administers the sound recordings of its member music companies. It is the only copyright society enjoying statutory recognition by the Government of India, in respect of sound recordings. At present, the number of member music labels is more than 275, including 3 subsidiaries of International major music labels. Membership is voluntary. The rights and/or royalty revenue streams so administered include broadcasting, internet, public performance and mobile telephony.

3. PPL is actively engaged in legitimate protection and legal enforcement of copyrights of its members.

4. Though PPL’s membership includes national Independent labels, majority of members are small music companies specializing in local or regional genres. The livelihood, business models and profitability of our members is significantly impacted by the Internet. While Internet presents certain growth opportunities, at the same time it is a significant threat in view of wide-spread on-line infringement of copyrights of our members, which is of grave concern. Accordingly, we are concerned that a music-focused gTLD operates in manner encouraging legitimate distribution and discouraging piracy.

5. Based on the above, PPL supports and endorses Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music focused gTLD under the string ".music", for the holistic benefit of the music community.

6. Should you have further questions, the undersigned may please be contacted.

Sincerely,

For Phonographic Performance Ltd

Suresh Srinivasan
Chief Operating Officer

Regd. Office Crescent Towers, 7th Floor, B168, Veera Estate, Off New Link Road, Andheri (West), Bombay 400 053
11th April 2012

Re: application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string ".music".

Dear Paul,

I am writing in reference to Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) recent request for our support in its application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string ".music".

PRS for Music is a music licensing society which represents the rights of 85,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers in the UK. We have a specific interest in the principle of signalling to consumers where they can find legal websites so they can enjoy music in a manner that respects intellectual property rights and discourages infringement.

PRS for Music is a member of representative bodies, BIEM and CISAC, both of which have already listed their support for Far Further’s application to operate a music focused gTLD. We also work closely with ICMP, which represents the interests of the music publishing community globally.

On behalf of their member organisations the aforementioned bodies have been through the due diligence process necessary to support the endorsement of an entity deemed suitable to operate a music focused gTLD. Based on their analysis and support, PRS for Music endorses the application by Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music focused gTLD under the string ".music".

Should further information be required, I advise that contact should be made with PRS for Music’s Regulatory and Corporate Affairs team, which is headed by Frances Lowe. Her contact details are listed as follows:

Frances Lowe, Head of Regulatory and Corporate Affairs
PRS for Music
Email: Frances.Lowe@prsformusic.com
Tel: +44 (0)207 306 4234

Yours sincerely,

Guy Fletcher
Chairman, PRS for Music
March 27, 2012

Re: Community Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

The Recording Industry Association of America would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), formed in the 1950s, is the trade organization that supports and promotes the creative and financial vitality of the major music companies in the United States. Its members are the music labels that comprise the most vibrant record industry in the world. RIAA members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 85% of all legitimate recorded music produced and sold in the United States. A list of our members is available at www.riaa.com. In support of this mission, the RIAA works to protect the intellectual property and First Amendment rights of artists and music labels; conduct consumer, industry and technical research; and monitor and review state and federal laws, regulations and policies. The RIAA® also certifies Gold®, Platinum®, Multi-Platinum™ and Diamond sales awards as well as Los Premiós De Oro y Platino™, an award celebrating Latin music sales.

Our members’ businesses and livelihoods have been deeply affected by the growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. It has transformed how music is created and how recorded music is consumed. It presents both growth opportunities in the form of varied digital distribution channels for music as well as significant threats in the form of rampant online copyright infringement of copyrighted music. This widespread infringement has been to the detriment of our members specifically and to the music economy generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any music themed or focused gTLD operates in a manner that promotes legitimate distribution and consumption of music and discourages infringement.

In the months prior to the application window, several entities expressed interest in operating a music themed gTLD, and reached out to various music related trade associations to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with several other music related trade associations that represent a cross-section of the global music community (the “coalition”), participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gTLD. As part of that process, the coalition requested information concerning, among other things, the respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally as well as its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its whois commitments, its proposed registrar requirements, and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the coalition about their proposed plans, and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.

Based on the above, our organization supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string “.music” for the benefit of the music community. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects the creator’s and owner’s rights in their music and promotes the legitimate distribution and consumption of music using executives that have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community.
Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact my colleague, Victoria Scheckler, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Recording Industry Association of America, 1025 F. St, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC, 20004, 202-775-0101, vscheckler@riaa.com.

Sincerely,

Cary Sherman
Chairman and CEO
Recording Industry Association of America

cc: John Styil, Far Further
    Stephen D. Crocker, ICANN
March 29, 2012

Re: Community Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

SESAC would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

Established in 1930, SESAC is a service organization created to serve both the creators of music and music users through music licensing and timely, efficient royalty collection and distribution. The second oldest and fastest growing performing rights organization in the U.S., SESAC is known for its diversified repertory that includes genres ranging from Adult Contemporary, Urban, Jazz, Rock, Americana, Contemporary Christian, Latin, Country, Gospel, Dance, Classical and New Age. SESAC is also rapidly becoming the performing rights organization of choice among many of Hollywood’s most sought-after film and television composers. Headquartered in Nashville, the company also has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Miami and London. (www.sesac.com).

Our members’ businesses and livelihoods have been deeply affected by the growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. It has transformed how music is created and how recorded music is consumed. It presents both growth opportunities in the form of varied digital distribution channels for music as well as significant threats in the form of rampant online copyright infringement of copyrighted music. This widespread infringement has been to the detriment of our members specifically and to the music economy generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any music themed or focused gTLD operates in a manner that encourages the broad distribution and enjoyment of music in a manner that respects intellectual property rights and discourages infringement.

In the months prior to the application window, several entities with an interest in operating a music themed gTLD, reached out to various music related trade associations and companies to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with several other music related trade associations representing a cross-section of the global music community, participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gTLD. As part of that process, this group of
associations requested information concerning, among other things, the respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally as well as its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its whois commitments, its proposed registrar requirements, and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the group about their proposed plans, and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.

Based on the above, SESAC supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string “.music” for the benefit of the music community. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC), led by executives who have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community, will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects artists’ and owner’s rights in copyrighted music and promotes the legitimate distribution and enjoyment of music.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Justin Levenson, Manager, Licensing Operations, SESAC, 55 Music Square East, Nashville, TN 37203, 615-320-0055, jlevenson@sesac.com.

Sincerely,

SESAC

[Signature]

Pat Collins

cc: John Styll, Far Further
Dr. Stephen Crocker, ICANN
Concerns: Global Music Community Member .music

Dear Sirs,

We are pleased to confirm that SABAM is supporting your application for the .music.

Best regards

Christophe Depreter
CEO

FAR FURTHER
179 Belle Forest Circle
Suite 104
Nashville TN 37221
USA

Brussels, 10 February 2012
April 4th, 2012

To whom it may concern

We are sending this letter in support of Far Further/.music LLC’s application for the .music top level domain.

Our organization, Sacem (Société des auteurs et compositeurs de musique), is a French collective rights society for music, representing over 137,000 members (songwriters, composers and publishers) and 40 million international music works in France. Sacem was founded in 1860, and is the oldest collective rights society in the world.

Our main role is to license our member’s repertoire, in order to collect and redistribute the rights generated, thus insuring a just remuneration for the use of their works. We also support musical creation by distributing cultural funds, coming mainly from the private copying system.

The protection of intellectual property rights is vitally important to our members. Thus, we want to do our part to ensure that any music-themed generic top-level domains are operated in the best interests of the legitimate music community.

We understand that Far Further intends to apply for the .music TLD. The principals behind Far Further are part of the music community, and have been for years. We trust that they will operate .music legitimately, while promoting and protecting the interests of right holders and musical diversity worldwide. We have reviewed their programs and are confident in their experience regarding the operation of this particular domain.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bernard Miyet
CEO of Sacem
March 10, 2012

Re: Community Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

The Songwriters Guild of America would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

The Songwriters Guild of America (SGA) is an organization founded in 1931, to help "advance, promote, and benefit" the profession of songwriters. It was founded as the "Songwriters Protective Association" by Billy Rose, George M. Meyer and Edgar Leslie. They issued the first standard songwriters contract, in 1932 and most writers consider it the 'standard' agreement in the industry. The organization was later known as the American Guild of Authors and Composers, AGAC. In 1976, the organization, along with the NMPA was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Copyright Act of 1976. In the 1980s, it became the Songwriters Guild of America. In the 1990’s it joined forces with the National Academy of Songwriters.[1]

The Songwriters Guild features online and offline classes in songwriting and the music business. Other features include contract review for members, in-depth song evaluations, royalty collection services and music industry resources.

Songwriters in the new millennium are faced with unprecedented opportunities and challenges in the world of online digital music delivery. While the internet has opened the door to world-wide distribution of songs to every songwriter with and internet connection it has also created, through illegal downloading and streaming of unlicensed music, the largest theft of intellectual property in the history of mankind. This widespread infringement has been to the detriment of our members specifically and to the music economy generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any music themed or focused gTLD operates in a manner that encourages the broad distribution and enjoyment of music in a manner that respects intellectual property rights and discourages infringement.

In the months prior to the application window, several entities with an interest in operating a music themed gTLD, reached out to various music related trade associations to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with several other music related trade associations representing a cross-section of the global music community, participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music themed gTLD. As part of that process, this group of associations requested information concerning, among other things, the respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally as well as its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its whois commitments, its proposed registrar requirements, and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the group about their proposed plans, and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.
Based on the above, The Songwriters Guild of America supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string “.music” for the benefit of the music community. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC), led by executives who have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community, will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects artists’ and owner’s rights in copyrighted music and promotes the legitimate distribution and enjoyment of music.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Sam Fein at 5120 Virginia Way, Suite C22 Brentwood, TN 37027 Phone: (615) 742-9945.

Sincerely,

Rick Carnes
President
The Songwriters Guild of America
April 9, 2012

Re: Support for Far Further’s (or .music LLC) Application for a Music Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

SoundExchange would like to express our support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music focused gTLD under the string “.music.”

SoundExchange is the non-profit performance rights organization that collects statutory royalties when sound recordings are played on certain digital services, such as satellite radio, Internet radio, cable TV channels, or streamed as background music in some restaurants or stores. SoundExchange is the only entity in the U.S. authorized to collect and distribute these non-interactive digital performance royalties for featured recording artists and master rights owners.

SoundExchange represents an unparalleled breadth of interests in the recorded music industry. Our constituents include both signed and unsigned recording artists – everyone from multi-platinum stars to local garage bands – along with small, medium and large record companies. We currently maintain more than 48,000 payable performer accounts and over 20,000 rights owner accounts. As an organization that both enables digital services to do what they do best, but also ensures the creative community is paid for their work, we are proud to be reinvesting in the next generation of great music.

Our recording artists and record labels benefit from the value of their intellectual property and the royalties they receive from digital streaming. As such we will also fight to ensure they are paid for their contributions to the industry. Digital technology has clearly created a new and growing revenue source for the music business, but it has also developed into a means for people around the world to unlawfully obtain music for free – bringing down the value of music. This is much to the detriment of those that have put their heart and soul, including countless hours into their work.

It is our firm belief that the any “.music” top-level domain is operated by an entity that not only has a solid organizational structure in place, but is also committed to the needs and interests of the legitimate music community. We believe Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) is that organization. Based on our knowledge of the organization, SoundExchange supports their application of the “.music” domain.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Huppe
President
SoundExchange
March 29, 2012

Re: Support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) Application for a Music-Focused gTLD under the string “.music”

To Whom It May Concern:

The Recording Academy, a membership organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals, would like to express its support for Far Further’s (or its subsidiary .music LLC) application to operate a music-focused gTLD under the string “.music”.

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards — the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music — The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture.

The growth of the Internet has deeply affected the livelihoods of our members. It has transformed how music is created and how recorded music is consumed. It presents growth opportunities in the form of new digital distribution channels for music as well as significant threats in the form of rampant online theft of copyrighted music. This widespread infringement has been to the detriment of both our members specifically and the broader music industry generally. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring that any music-themed or music-focused gTLD operates in a manner that encourages the broad distribution and enjoyment of music, respects intellectual property rights and discourages copyright infringement.

In the months prior to the application window, several entities with an interest in operating a music-themed gTLD reached out to various music related trade associations to seek their support and endorsement. In light of that interest, our organization, along with other music related trade associations representing a cross-section of the global music community, participated in an extensive request for information in 2011 to solicit information from potential applicants about their plans to apply for and operate a music-themed gTLD. As part of that process, this group of associations requested information concerning, among other things, each respondent’s plans to operate the gTLD generally, its proposed intellectual property protection measures for the gTLD, its governance model, its executives and staffing estimates, its whois commitments, its proposed registrar requirements and its financial and technical capability to operate its proposed gTLD.
operations. Several entities responded to this request in writing, made presentations to the group about their proposed plans and responded to follow-up questions. Separate due diligence and analysis were also performed concerning the respondents and their proposed plans.

Based on the process outlined above, The Recording Academy supports and endorses the application by Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC) to operate a music themed gTLD for the music community under the string "music" for the benefit of the music community. We believe the application will show that Far Further (or its subsidiary .music LLC), led by executives who have deep knowledge of, and experience in, the music community, will operate the gTLD in a manner that respects and protects artists' and owners' rights in copyrighted music and promotes the legitimate distribution and enjoyment of music.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Daryl P. Friedman, Chief Advocacy & Industry Relations Officer, The Recording Academy, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 840, Washington, D.C., 20045, 202-662-1285.

Sincerely,

Daryl P. Friedman
Chief Advocacy & Industry Relations Officer

cc: John Styll, Far Further
    Dr. Stephen Crocker, ICANN