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John Read
Chief, Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW – Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Read,

I have worked in the book business for 43 years, beginning as a sales clerk in a bookstore, now an independent publishers' representative.

In that time, independent bookstores have been threatened by the omnipresence of the B Dalton and Walden bookstore chains, heavy discounting by Crown Books and the warehouse clubs, Barnes and Noble and Borders superstores, and now Amazon.com. Many independent bookstores have adapted and evolved, scaled back, and regrouped. Others have been defeated, and are out of business.

Those still standing have reached their breaking point with Amazon. No other challenge has carried the predatory nature of the Amazon business model.

I have represented hundreds of publishers in my career, some publishers who are currently under the umbrella of the Big Six. I have represented many to Amazon.com. I have negotiated their initial terms and conditions of sale, terms that would soon be unilaterally altered, then dictated by Amazon.

It's unconscionable that the Department of Justice is ignoring a monopoly and pursuing the shadows, totally circumstantial, of publisher collusion.

The Department of Justice is looking in the wrong direction. It is looking in the opposite direction.

Sincerely,

George Carroll