

From: Laura Mullen [mailto:lmull][REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2012 11:40 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: value

Dear John Read,

I am writing to comment on the proposed e-book settlement: I am asking that you stand against Amazon's predatory pricing and stand up for bookstores in America. Access to bookstores where the collected thoughts and inventions of our fellow humans are displayed and sold at something like their true value is not simply a great and reviving pleasure, it is a vital necessity for the thinkers and inventors of the future.

I have just returned from France, where the appearance of a bookstore or two (most of them excellent) in the course of any short walk at first--after the barren desert this country has become--shocked me. Then I began to remember what America had once been like, recalling that bookstores had played a vital, nourishing, part in my life as an artist and person. To be able to step through a doorway into the rich collection of information and possibility was a deep and sustaining joy...and one my students have lost--if they ever experienced it.

You have a chance to put the brakes on an erasure of culture that will have a long term, negative, impact if not halted. You have the chance to say, clearly, that intellectual and imaginative work with language has a real value--it needs to be said. I hope you will say it.

Sincerely,

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