

From: Victor Cox [mailto:vic.c[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 11:34 PM  
To: Read, John[John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
Subject: Proposed e-book settlement

Mr. John R. Read, Esq.  
Antitrust Division, DOJ

Dear Mr. Read,

I am a professional, independent magazine writer and published book author and I do not understand why your division has apparently chosen to side with Amazon (book selling's giant gorilla in the room) against the traditional brick-and-mortar bookstores.

As I understand the terms of the proposed deal DOJ is pushing on the publishers and bookstores it would outlaw the agency pricing model for most book selling. According to the Authors Guild, to which I am a member, this agency model is the only thing that has kept competitive bookselling alive the past few years, holding off the monopolistic practices of Amazon's manipulation of the e-book market and its domination of traditional print publishers.

Only in an Orwellian world can a deal that stifles competition be described as protecting or enhancing it. For more than 30 years I've known the way the deck is stacked against the independent writer, but once Amazon has a virtual monopoly on book selling and distribution there will be no countervailing economic forces to this gorilla.

Please support a system of checks and balances, starting with allowing the use of the agency model contract.

Thank you,

Vic Cox  
Goleta, California