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Dear Mr. John Read:

My name is Pardeep K. Sindwani and I am the owner of Towne Book Center and Café in Collegeville, Pennsylvania and I have been an independent book seller for the last 22 years. This letter is regarding the civil suit filed by the Department of Justice against Apple Computer and 5 publishers against agency model pricing against e-books. I believe the DoJ made an egregious error in preceding this lawsuit, and I would like to explain why:

This decision will give Amazon an unfair advantage. In the long run, Amazon will get a monopoly on e-books. The agency model is not collusion, but rather simple economics. Publishing is a competitive industry, and if one publisher has the absolute advantage over the price of e-books or any other service, other publishers usually follow suit to be competitive. In this example, John Sargent of Macmillan decided to follow the agency model for the price of e-books, and other publishers followed suit. This pricing model is used in all fields, and is a utility to keep prices at their lowest possible costs for the consumers.

In order to remain competitive with Amazon's \$9.99 e-book price, the seller of the e-book must take a loss. Amazon can eat the losses because of their surplus of resources, and monopoly on the kindle. In the long run, it will no longer be feasible for other businesses to sell e-books. Amazon will have the monopoly.

E-books, like paper books, are intellectual properties of authors, publishers, and booksellers. I wholeheartedly agree with Penguin Publishing's statement that the \$9.99 cost of e-books, "threatens the long-term, overall health of the book publishing industry by creating barriers to entry, undercutting the margins and incentives of other sellers, fostering a perception of ebooks as lowcost commodities, and threatening the viability of book publishers and authors, as well as other book selling outlets vital to the marketing and promotion of books."

I applaud publishers like Macmillan Publishing and Penguin who are helping us "Davids" to stand up against the Goliaths like Amazon. The agency model would level the playing field for small independent bookstores and giant mega-stores. We are not asking for any special treatment; **we just want fair business practices**. This decision is a big blow to us small businesses.

The Obama administration frequently discusses opportunities for small businesses as political rhetoric, yet their action in this decision contradicts their words. If we want to continue being a nation that thrives off the work and creativity of small business owners and employees, we must not continue to create policies that favor monopoly tactics and mega-websites like Amazon.

Sincerely,

Pardeep K. Sindwani