



June 18, 2012

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 am sending you this letter in hope that you and your colleagues at the DOJ would reconsider your filing about e-book pricing. Your decision to penalize the three settling publishers, Harper Collins, Hachette and Simon and Schuster, **by not allowing them to employ the agency model for e-books for two years is defeating fair competition with the appearance of supporting it.**

As a bookshop owner in a 137 year old family owned and operated business this makes no economic sense and does not offer an open marketplace for readers and book buyers. We were selling e-books before the Agency model took effect and before five of the top publishers adopted this kind of pricing. For us and our customers the prices were high-but after agency-prices came down on the vast majority of books. Backlist titles-those titles that have been on the market for at least six months-prices dropped dramatically. There have been so many special or reduced prices on books, that we have seen a huge uptick on the sale of e-books through our website. There is much more competition among publishers themselves on price. Our customers were overjoyed to see us in the market and competing with the competition. We were able to recommend the books we love and also sell them to our community in the format they wished!

I am currently the President of the American Booksellers Association and when our CEO, legal counsel and our Vice President met with the DOJ in March it was made clear to us that the accusations of collusion was what was considered illegal, not the agency model. The DOJ saw nothing wrong with Agency. So why use the penalty of taking down agency for two years; you are hurting a vibrant, more competitive, wider marketplace for e-books. Before agency one player, Amazon, had 90% of the market share in e-books; selling at below cost. These were prices independent bookstores could not even buy them for at cost. Today with agency so many more players are in the game; Barnes and Noble, Kobo, Google, Apple and others. **Consumers now have a choice and for stores like mine they choose to support their communities through their purchases and sales taxes.**

If Agency goes away, one player will control the market and I believe this with all of my heart-**this will result in damaging the literary and cultural landscape of our country. Diversity in books and literature and a diversity of where a reader can purchase them are crucial to our economy, our communities, and our culture.**

Sincerely,

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Owner-Anderson's Bookshops and ABC Fairs
Naperville, Aurora and Downers Grove, Illinois
American Booksellers President