

From: Pam Wennerberg [mailto:pwer[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 12:42 PM
To: Read, John
Subject: Oppose the Tunney Act

June 12, 2012

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

John.Read@usdoj.gov

RE: The Antitrust Penalties and Procedures Act ("Tunney Act")

Dear Mr. Read:

Please find on behalf of the defendants in the above anti-trust lawsuit.

There are many of us who still support and purchase both hard copy and e-books from our local stores. If you pass this Act, you will seriously impair their ability to compete in the e-book marketplace.

Amazon already does not compete on a fair market playing field. They are not required to pay sales tax and they can absorb their losses from slashing book and e-book sales and recoup them from other products. The deep discounts they give to consumers on books are taken from the publishers and authors, particularly in the e-book market. In short, they are a warehouse of "stuff" that includes books rather than a real bookstore.

Books – even e-books- aren't free to produce. The author, the editor and the publicist all work very hard to produce a book. Publishers must be able to set a price on their own product to cover these costs. Think of the last book you read. Was it Steve Jobs' biography? Was it the latest John Grisham novel? Perhaps it was an obscure local gardening book or a book on your favorite sport. How did you hear about it? Chances are you saw it in a book store or heard about it from a friend. I would guess you did not get it from Amazon until you were *prompted* to do so by a publicist, publisher's representative or book seller.

If you were to rely on Amazon for your books without the benefit of the book industry, it's likely you would never have known that book existed.

Amazon does not edit books, their employees don't read the books they sell, and they will publish anything with impunity. I believe this can only be bad news for the reading public, resulting in a cultural landscape offering a far less diverse range of titles being published and a much-diminished range of publishers.

Think of an independent publisher, editor and book seller as "quality control." They make sure that the books sold are a quality product. They make sure that it is properly distributed and promoted to the reading public. As a voracious reader, I depend on them and I believe that anyone who has read a book in the last 6 months does too.

Amazon is attempting to take over an entire industry, one in which it has no real experience. The publishers of e-books are simply trying to compete by setting the prices for their own products.

Please stand with us readers in libraries and book stores and towns all over the country. We may not be as big as Amazon, but we care about a free market far more.

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Pam Wennerberg

Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not come, but today is a wonderful present.

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