

From: Michelle Knudsen [mailto:michelle.knuds[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 11:38 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: U.S. vs. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

John R. Read, Esq. (john.read@usdoj.gov)
Chief, Litigation III
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear John Read:

I'm writing to express my hope that the government will not help Amazon to completely monopolize the book industry. Amazon has clearly proven its willingness to abuse its power (removing "buy" buttons from authors' books to pressure publishers, for example) and seems committed to targeting traditional brick-and-mortar bookstores. People may love Amazon's low prices now, but when Amazon controls the entire market, consumers will suffer in the end. I believe the continued existence of physical bookstores is vital to maintaining a healthy literary marketplace.

As a reader, I want to have the option of going to my local bookstore to discover books I might not find by searching online. I want to continue to have a number of different book buyers at different stores making decisions about what books to keep on the shelves and what books to promote to customers. I want the variety and richness of a healthy, competitive book market, with many players able to participate and work to gain customers' loyalty and business.

As an author, I want to be able to connect with readers and booksellers in person, visiting brick-and-mortar stores for readings and book signings. I want readers to have the chance to encounter my books on the shelf. I don't want Amazon to be making all the choices regarding whether and how to sell my books.

I do not believe the Justice Department's proposed settlement, which would allow Amazon to resume its predatory pricing model, is in the public interest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Knudsen

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www.michelleknudsen.com
<http://michelleknudsen.blogspot.com>