

PAT STEFFES

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LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV.  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Reed,

I am writing today to support the agency model for independent bookstores.

I moved to Petoskey, Mi from the Detroit area eleven years ago. Since moving here I have come to appreciate our local independent book stores. I always have loved to read but now because of the book club have purchased at least a book a month whereas before I always just used our local library. The book discussions have led me to a wider variety of books of which I probably would not have purchased.

Giving our independent bookstore the opportunity to compete globally is one of those classic American rights. Just as my husband's small business vies for customers so to should our locally owned bookstore have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Our local bookstore owners consider what their "right thing to do" is. They put part of the monies paid for books back in the community by letting each buyer decide which local charity they wish a part of the purchase price to be donated. Authors are brought in for book signings and discussion groups. It really would be a catastrophe if we lost our independent bookstore due to lack of fair competition.

I urge you to remember our bookstore, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, along with the owners Matt and Jessilynn and their wonderful staff, when you consider the agency model for all.

Sincerely,

*Pat Steffes*