

From: Emily Hager [mailto:emi[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 10:14 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Please reject the anti-trust lawsuit regarding ebook pricing

Chief Justice Read,

I have been a reader my whole life. I remember my parents taking me to story times in preschool and book signings in high school. For me, bookstores have been an important physical presence, a place to be and to learn and to connect with other readers in my community.

My husband bought me a kindle a few years ago and though I use it, yes, and find it helpful for carrying multiple books, but I continue to argue that it cannot replace "real" books for me. I write this because I want you to know what bookstores have meant to me and what books mean to me-- and so many others. Books are not free to create, to produce and reproduce, to edit, to market and to distribute. Those who contribute to these processes deserve to have their work acknowledged and funded.

The anti-trust lawsuit that is now before you represents what could be the end of brick and mortar bookstores and even currently hurts publishers and authors. Amazon claims that to be told by publishers what they should charge for ebooks is "price fixing." To underprice ebooks now in order to outsell other businesses (and perhaps guarantee that they are the only bookseller remaining) hurts not only publishers and bookstore owners, but the book reading community as well. We love having a physical gathering place, a place to trade ideas, to meet authors and smell the wonderful smell and paper and ink. Most of all, we love the ideas and worlds created therein so much that we want to make it possible for writers and publishers to keep writing and publishing. If amazon continues to under price books, we will be deprived of these public spaces and these writers and publishers to keep creating books. It also does nothing to prevent amazon from raising prices when all the competition is gone.

As a "real" book reader and lover (who also knows that kindles are not something everyone can afford and have access to), and someone who has found comfort in the pages of a book--and in the aisles of local brick-and-mortar bookstores since I was a toddler, I urge you strongly to allow publishers to set ebook prices. Because freedom for the mind is not free, and because Amazon should not be allowed to benefit from the sacrifices of writers, publishers, and brick-and-mortar stores, Amazon must not be allowed to undercut pricing and prevent the competition from being able to compete.

Sincerely,
Emily Hager