

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

April 24, 2012

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

Dear Atty. Read,

I am responding to the recent developments in the Department of Justice's e-book price altering lawsuit. As a student in the department of Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College, I have a vested interest in the decisions to be made, as the outcome will greatly affect the industry I am preparing to dedicate my career to.


As the settlement hearing scheduled for July 27 draws near, I ask that you please consider carefully the cultural value of the books American publishing houses produce, as well as the avenue of imagination, escape, and creativity they offer readers in the United States and abroad, especially during troubling economic times such as these.

Publishing houses are working hard and succeeding in adopting new technological innovations in a turbulent market in order to produce literature that can be enjoyed by the masses and that can nurture the talent responsible for its creation and distribution while keeping prices fair.

The agency model serves as an important innovation that allows publishers, authors, and retailers to profit from their work and sustain their business models without inflicting financial harm on any group. If the agency model is to be abandoned, publishers and authors stand to suffer from unreasonable price cuts on their e-books that have already crippled the print book industry. This, in turn, will inflict great harm on the countless readers that depend on these publishing houses to educate, entertain, and inspire them. Everyone suffers if the agency model is suspended.

Please consider America's current and future readers, authors, and publishers before proceeding to overturn the agency model. Think back to the book that has comforted or inspired you in your darkest hour, and imagine a world where that book never existed. This is what is lost if the publishing industry is forced to abandon a practical and sustainable business model.

Sincerely yours,


Sophie Maes