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June 22, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read:

I am writing you today to add my voice to the chorus of publishing industry professionals who object to the proposed settlement between the Department of Justice and the three major publishers regarding eBook pricing.

Having begun my career in publishing in 2001 as an editorial assistant at Simon & Schuster, I have witnessed Amazon's role as a bookseller nearly from the start, as it has nakedly aspired to gain a monopoly over the entire bookselling industry, not just the on-line sector. And now, regrettably, the terms of the DOJ settlement will hand Amazon the monopoly it has craved from the start in the name of consumer interest.

What disturbs me most, though, is that the rationale for the settlement is deeply flawed on two accounts.

First, as Simon Lipskar of Writers House has convincingly demonstrated, the agency model has *not* resulted in higher prices for consumers, but rather it has led to lower prices across the board, as well as increased competition among publishing entities—which, according to Economics 101, naturally leads to lower prices for the consumer. And second, as many of my colleagues have noted, by giving Amazon leave to once again engage in its anti-competitive pricing strategies, Amazon will drive competitors out of business—and once its monopolization is complete, what's to stop Amazon from raising prices at that point?

Therefore, I urge the DOJ to reconsider this settlement in order to restore fair play between publishers and booksellers, which will ultimately benefit the consumer much more than this short-sighted solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Rudolph'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Rudolph