

From: Lisa Doublestein [mailto:doubleste[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Read, John
Subject: Agency Model, and Independent Bookstores

Dear Mr. Read,
I'm writing today to support the agency model for independent bookstores.

My children have grown up in a city with an independent bookstore. This is an important sentence, one that, sadly, many folks these days can't claim. Those words, "independent bookstore," may sound like a catch phrase to you by now. But for my family, they mean Matt and Jessilynn, Zach and Bess and Lynne and Karen. They mean authors who want to visit, and, even when they're not here for the kids, they stoop down and say hello to my little ones, anyway. Independent bookstore means folks who contribute to the community in meaningful ways - those ways of the heart, rather than flashy slasher sales. Chunks of money handed to local schools by the shop owners (in person), donations of books to charity auctions (where the shop owners show up to bid, too), and kids' birthday parties hosted by employees who dress as Pinkalicious and Ladybug Girl.

Giving our independent bookstore the opportunity to compete globally is one of those classic American rights. Just as my family's small business vies for customers in a deep well of fellow builders, so should Jess and Matt have the opportunity to compare apples to apples for each of their clients.

And here's the kicker: Every day, our bookstore owners consider what their "right thing to do" is. Do they stop donating to local schools to stick red tags on books? Do they shut their doors early during the work week? And every day, Jess and Matt opt for goodness, rather than greed. Extending this courtesy back to them helps not only a great business, but an entire community - my kids included. What a shame it would be for the families, schools, and visitors to this community (not least of which include those authors, who breathe a collective sigh of relief when riding into our small-in-stature, big-on-spirit town), to lose our independent bookstore due to lack of fair competition.

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

Very truly yours,
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