

From: Nancy Simpson-Brice [mailto:nsimpson[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 5:56 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Ruling on agency model

Department of Justice

John Read, Chief

Antitrust Division

June 23, 2012

Dear Mr. Read and committee,

Allow me to add my voice to the chorus of those who object to your potential actions in ruling against the “agency model” for ebook pricing.

As I understand the duties of the Department of Justice, one of the most important is to protect the citizens of the United States from the formation of monopolies which are naturally detrimental to all. Yet your action to strike down the agency model would do just that: it would once again place Amazon in the driver’s seat, well on its way to a complete monopoly of the literary world.

To quote the CEO of Books-A-Million Terry Finley, “If the restrictions on the agency model are upheld, it will provide Amazon the opportunity to revert to its anti-competitive e-book pricing strategy which will place additional pressure on brick-and-mortar stores. They will cause significant harm to consumers by reducing competition in the book industry.”

This will mean the closure of many independent bookstores, the last bastions of independent thought and the venue for independent thinkers, debut authors, and community centers. Creativity and freedom of speech will be

stymied. It is not only the consumer's pocketbook that will be effected; it is the very essence of their future lives, the future of the American spirit.

I cannot believe that an agency such as the Department of Justice, charged with protecting the public from collective harm, would rule against a system that protects the general populace from so many detrimental effects.

I urge you to think with the best interest of Americans as your top criteria.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Nancy Simpson-Brice

Book Vault

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

[nsimpson](#)[REDACTED]

641-660-2961