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

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

May 8, 2012

Mia Wigmore  
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Dear Mr. Read,

As I understand it, the purpose of anti-trust legislation is to promote the healthy interests of the majority. As an employee of bookstores for the last twenty years, I have seen small business pummeled by the far reaching monopoly that is Amazon.

My last position was in an independent bookstore from 1997 until its close in June 2011. We were able to survive against big box bookstores, including Target and Costco. We staved off to some degree the lure of convenience and low price that Amazon began offer. When the triple threat of e-books came on the scene, the little shop that could finally closed its doors.

I am currently employed by Diesel, A Bookstore, which has a fantastic business model and is wisely located in an affluent and very well trafficked area. We do sell e-books and encourage our customers to buy them from us, as this benefits the economy with local taxes. (Everybody likes paved roads). But it is not just the fiscal impact of abolishing the agency model that concerns me. It is the potential dearth of place, of community, where ideas are not filtered by a behemoth. Amazon can "afford" to take massive loss leads, to make little to no money on e-books. We need the revenue to benefit our community the way only a small business can. Why bully David? Let's nail Goliath.

Without healthy competition overreaching conglomerates like Amazon crush competition and choice, and by extension endanger free speech, a "right" I consider fundamental in our wonderful country.

Best,

*M. Wigmore*