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May 8, 2012

John R. Read
Chief, Litigation III Section
United States Department of Justice
450 5th Street NW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530

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

Dear Mr. Read:

I am a literary agent representing approximately 45 professional writers. I write to voice to you my strong opposition to the proposed settlement between the Justice Department and three publishers in the matter of e-book pricing.

The settlement will allow Amazon to set artificially low pricing which threatens the business of writing, publishing, and bookselling and which will ultimately have seriously negative effects on the choices available to book customers.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed settlement and to allow the market to return to one that protects my clients' intellectual property from unfair and predatory discounting. To do otherwise will result in the loss of many more brick and mortar bookstores, and the loss to the consumer of a range of choices in price, format and retailer, surely not a desirable outcome for anyone.

Sincerely,



Richard Parks

RP/hp