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To: [Read, John](mailto:John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: comment on US v Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY).
Date: Monday, June 04, 2012 6:59:56 PM

Dear Mr. Read:

I write to protest against the position of the Department of Justice in United States v. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY). Comments on Proposed Final Judgment as to Defendants Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster.

As a historian I can state as a matter of fact that the impetus for original passage of the anti-trust laws was the predatory pricing by large companies with significant capital reserves which drove weaker firms out of business.

It is both an enormous irony and an enormous outrage that the Justice Department has now invoked anti-trust laws on the side of Amazon, the company employing predatory pricing to drive other companies out of business, against firms which are trying to defend themselves and insure their own survival.

There is nothing theoretical about Amazon's actions. The destruction of traditional bookstores is fact. Their disappearance has immense ramifications for not just stores and publishers but for writers and ultimately for American culture as well. If new or struggling writers have no opportunity to get their books and themselves before the public, they cannot survive as writers and their voices and potential contributions will be lost.

Also fact is Amazon's past attempts to use brute force to compel submission, as when it tried to bully Macmillan into agreeing to something against its interest.

The bad guy here is Amazon, not the publishers. The victims are not only publishers, bookstores, and writers, but the American public.

The Justice Department needs to protect publishers, stores, and writers against Amazon. Support the publishers efforts to defend themselves.

Thank you,

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