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

May 25, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read:

I am writing to you as a bookseller, and more importantly as a lover of books, to let you know of my concern about the Department of Justice suit against five publishers and Apple. In particular, I am writing to support the agency model of pricing for e-books, which has leveled the playing field for independent bookstores and has led to a more varied and competitive market. According to the American Booksellers' Association, Amazon had a 90% share of e-book sales before the agency model was put into effect. Allowing one huge retailer to corner that much of the market because they have the ability to sell large numbers of items below cost does not seem to be the way to promote competition.

Booksellers and publishers are not just an industry, but is an important part of the intellectual, cultural and political life of this country. My concern is not only for my small bookstore. I worry that the power that Amazon is amassing over the book publishing industry will diminish the variety of books published and therefore available to consumers. I believe the agency model is important for maintaining a lively and diverse book world and in the long run will benefit all those who care about books.

Thank you for your consideration.


Nancy Felton