

**From:** [Jim Mastro](#) [j[REDACTED]]  
**To:** [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**Subject:** 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.  
**Date:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 12:53:38 PM

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Dear Mr. Read:

As an author whose books have not yet reached the status of "bestseller," I depend on small, independent bookstores to showcase my work and reach readers. I am very concerned that the Justice Department's proposed settlement in the above referenced case will permit e-book vendors (primarily Amazon.com) to return to predatory pricing models that threaten those small bookstores. In effect, the proposal will help entrench a monopoly and eliminate competition.

I have seen already several independent bookstores go out of business because of Amazon in the last several years, which not only threatens my livelihood but also the viability of artistic expression in our society. Bookstores play a vital role. We are ill-served when one giant, on-line seller controls an entire industry.

Please re-evaluate your proposal, and do not sanction any model that allows large sellers like Amazon to sell e-books at below cost. Amazon's overwhelming presence and huge cash reserves will allow it to do this until almost every competitor has been driven out of business.

Thank you for your consideration on my comments.

Sincerely,  
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