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June 14, 2012

John Read
Chief, Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division
U.S. 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 work as an independent bookseller at Blue Willow Bookshop in Houston, Texas, and I am writing to you to voice my support for the agency model for the sale of e-books. The agency model provides diversity, competition, and a fair marketplace for e-books. In an ever-changing marketplace, this model enables brick and mortar independent booksellers to remain viable with online competitors.

Independent bookstores – in fact all local, independent businesses – form the backbone of their communities. I am proud to work for an independent business who makes a difference in its surrounding community and spreads the joy of reading to people of all ages in books of all formats.

The agency model is a vital tool for independent booksellers. Please consider reinstating it to ensure a fair marketplace.

Thank you,



Cathy Berner