

From: Sara Ross [mailto:sararc[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Read, John
Subject: Antitrust lawsuit comments - Book publishing agency model

Mr. Read,

I am gravely concerned about antitrust lawsuit the Department of Justice has filed against Apple, Penguin, and MacMillan. The agency model that is under attack in this lawsuit has worked effectively to provide a level playing field for sellers of e-books, helping to allow both appropriate competition and diversity in the industry. The deconstruction of that model will give (more) exceptional power to Amazon and further disable the ability of independent bookstores to compete in the marketplace. In addition, it will destabilize pricing for publishers, further depressing the already struggling book market.

The success of this lawsuit would amount to another step in Amazon's continued efforts to undercut fair pricing strategies, further crippling the book industry. Books (e-books too) are an irreplaceable and invaluable part of our society and an enterprise we should be careful, if not to protect, then at least not to attack. I encourage all parties involved in this important decision to look carefully at the impacts that the dissolution of the agency model would have on the publishing industry and on booksellers – small and large – nationwide.

Thank you,

Sara Ross

Reader, writer, former bookseller.

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