

**From:** Karen Ford [mailto:kmamafo[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 7:56 AM  
**To:** Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**Subject:** public comments, book suit

Dear Mr. Read,

I am privileged to have worked in an independent book store for the past 15 years. During that time I have seen many changes in the book business. We have become a source of community to our local area; we have worked hard to provide a place for the local community to gather and exchange information, to meet and hear nationally reknowned authors speak, where they may not otherwise have had access. We give back to our community via several methods, something our main competitor, Amazon, does not do- including paying our state taxes! E-books have been another way to stay healthy in the book business. By adopting the agency model the competition has remained fair. There is nothing fair about the way Amazon does business- the lack of state taxes in most cases, the selling books at a loss (something a healthy independent bookstore simply can not do and stay in business), etc. The selling of e-books was fair game, for all, however, and by ruling against the publishers and the Agency Model, you will do away with that.

Please consider this when you make this most important decision, and realize the effect this decision will have all the way down to the nuts and bolts of the community.

Thank you,  
Karen Ford