

From: Michael Gastaldo [mailto:mikeg[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 1:36 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Amazon vs. The Publishers

ATTN:
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:

The giant internet retailer Amazon is using their vast fortune to absorb the impact of selling popular products at less than cost in a ruthless attempt to drive their competition out of business and thereby dominate the marketplace.

The publishing industry is just one of their many targets.

Amazon uses the power of money to subvert the rule of law. It is a part of their business model to destroy other companies, or whole industries that do not bend to their self-serving demands.

Companies with this much power become harmful to society in general, and the slash-and-burn price-busting tactics they are so proud of end up destroying the delicate infrastructure of sustainable commerce.

Amazon has become a huge and powerful company by not playing by the same rules to which all other companies must adhere. Amazon is using this unfair advantage to destroy it's competition so that it can become the most powerful retail marketing source on the planet. It is not at all interested in a competitive marketplace.

Amazon doesn't create ideas or music or art or office supplies or washing machines or any useful and meaningful product of any kind. It is a giant suction device for removing hard won profits from brick-and-mortar industries - industries and businesses that are the very spine of the American economy - and robbing them of any opportunity for sustainable growth.

Amazon exists solely to extract profits from the hard work of others. It is an opportunistic money making machine, and as such it has a destructive effect upon the rest of society. This behemoth company is a pernicious weed that must be pruned back before it devours everything around it, as it employs a scorched earth policy that will not allow other businesses to survive.

Please reconsider the DOJ suit against Apple and the Publishers. They are not the problem here. Amazon must not be given further powers to manipulate the marketplace and the rule of law.

It is Amazon that should be the focus of DOJ investigation and judicial action.

Sincerely,
Michael Gastaldo

2504 Euclid Street
Santa Monica, California 90405

310-452-6260