

**From:** Nick Taylor [mailto:nicktaylor@REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 24, 2012 6:18 PM  
**To:** Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]-  
**Subject:** Proposed e-book settlement.

Dear John Read,

I am a writer based in New York City, and I find several problems with the Justice Department's proposed e-book settlement. The biggest is that it encourages Amazon's monopolistic takeover of the American book market by enabling it to resume predatory pricing. The target of any monopoly is competition, in this case brick-and-mortar bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and their smaller independent cousins. Such stores serve a valuable function in our democracy. They serve readers in unique ways. People wandering through bookstores find not only the books they know but ones they don't. This is a good thing for the marketplace at large. They also find ideas. It is hard to imagine our country without them, but Amazon's aim is to commoditize books and move all book sales online. When this happens the traditional publishers you have targeted in your original lawsuit, as well as authors and indeed free speech itself, will be at the mercy of the monopoly this settlement creates.

Thank you for your attention, and best regards.

Nick Taylor

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