

From: Kate Stine [mailto:katesti[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Comment / U.S. vs. Apple, Inc., et al., 12-cv-2826 (DLC) (SDNY)

Dear Mr. Read,

The DOJ's proposed settlement of U.S. vs Apple, Inc., et al., is not in the public interest for several reasons.

First, it will weaken the competitive standing of brick-and-mortar bookstores by giving an unfair advantage to Amazon which is using predatory pricing to kill off competition. Once the competition is gone, prices will inevitably rise.

Second, by increasing Amazon's sales, it will decrease tax revenue in many communities across the country. Brick-and-mortar stores, which for the most part are small, locally-owned businesses, are obliged to charge state and local sales taxes. Amazon has vigorously defended its practice of not charging these taxes—to its competitive advantage and the public detriment.

Third, by weakening other distribution channels this proposed agreement will increase the already outsized influence of one company, Amazon, on book publishers. No one company should be able to dominate an industry that is so vital to our democracy.

Sincerely,

Kate Stine, Publisher

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