

From: Sallie Bingham [mailto:salliebingh[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 12:59 PM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: re Amazon and the justice departmet

Dear John Read: as a member of the Authors Guild and a professional writer with fourteen books of fiction and non fiction to my credit, I am horrified by the threat Amazon poses to my future. My books are published by small presses and university presses and sold to a small, select audience entirely through independently owned bookstores; as you probably know, the chains don't stock the kind of books I write, and access to my books on Amazon is not going to appeal to most of my readers, who support independent bookstores as a matter of principle and read the books themselves; they find me through word of mouth, reviews, established reputation and the readings I give at independent bookstores. Without access to these stores, severely threatened by Amazon's ability to undercut prices, I will lost my readers. While this may seem the complaint of a minority of writers, you will understand that to continue to offer a diversity of viewpoints to the reading public, essential in a democracy, the books I write and others in the same category are essential. Amazon, by establishing what is obviously a monopoly, will slowly crush writers like me to death....In the old days it was Standard Oil and American Tobacco; now it's Amazon. The Justice Department must come to see how serious this issue is. With thanks and best wishes, Sallie Bingham