

**From:** Craig K. Comstock [mailto:d[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2012 7:01 PM  
**To:** Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**Subject:** ebook settlement

Dear Mr. Reed,

I'm writing about the proposed e-book settlement. I'm not only a grateful Amazon customer but a long-time member of the Author's Guild.

I start with the premise that a healthy, competitive book market is essential to our culture. I have personally saved money, at least in the short term, by ordering Kindle books at what is clearly predatory pricing, even if I know these prices will rise sharply as soon as Amazon gains a big enough share of the market.

My interest as a citizen is not short-term financial saving but the long-term health of our culture. That health would be harmed by the further decline of bookstores, which facilitate the discovery of less well-known authors, and most authors are *not* well-known. Ordering on line works well when you know what you want, but it's an awkward way to browse.

An analysis that ignores predatory pricing and proposes a settlement that would harm local bookstores is misguided. It's in nobody's long-term interest except Amazon's and perhaps a tiny group of best-selling authors

Craig K. Comstock

P.S. Just for purposes of identification, I am an author of *Sanctions for Evil: Sources of Social Destructiveness* (Beacon Press), and a pair called *Citizen Summitry* and *Securing Our Planet* (Tarcher/now part of Penguin).