

From: Jim Bean [mailto:jimbe[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 7:25 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Book industry Agency Model

Dear Mr. Read,

I wanted to express my concern that the U.S. government, through the current actions regarding e-books and the Agency Model, will be inadvertently hurting independent bookselling business directly and many other businesses indirectly that support those bookstores. Not all bookstores are currently able to sell e-books. In many cases only large stores or those associated with the national association can do so. But it is the large box stores or large corporations that have in the past heavily discounted e-books. If given the chance they will likely continue to discount e-books as lost leaders that will negatively impact the availability of both the printed books and e-books. This in turn would impact the stability of the small businesses that are so important to communities around the country. By allowing one main vendor to gain the upper hand without a common pricing model limiting discounting the U.S. Government would be supporting anti-competitive / Monopolistic corporations.

It seems like the U.S. Government is encouraging such action by huge corporations with this current action on the Agency Model. And now with the negotiations between the State Department and Amazon for millions of tax payer dollars to buy and ship e-readers and content over seas the U.S. Government is actually funding the same entity which legitimizes this huge corporations practices. These might be two different issues at one level with their own justifications but taken together the impression and result is going to likely have a fall out that was not intended.

From my perspective, the U.S. Government should be doing everything within its power to support independent businesses rather than solidifying the giant corporations stranglehold on literacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Bean
Boyer City, Michigan