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Mr. Read:

LITIGATION III, ANTITRUST DIV
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

I'm writing you to add my voice to what I hope you are experiencing as a very loud and clear message against the government's deleterious action in the fair marketplace with regard to the Agency Model for e-book sales. I represent myself, as a consumer of both print and electronic books and a retired member of the publishing industry, and in support of independent bookstores everywhere – most especially McLean & Eakin Booksellers in Petoskey, Michigan.

The Agency Model must be allowed to continue to foster competition and innovation in the burgeoning e-book market. Consumers must continue to experience the advantages this model offers in terms of diversity in content, pricing, delivery – all of which we lose when we can only shop in a monopolized marketplace.

As importantly, the value of the small, community-entrenched businesses that many independent bookstores are cannot be overstated. Yes, they are important in the landscape of the publishing industry; they are as critical to the business, cultural, and social environments in which they operate. To do anything to endanger their future is unconscionable.

Please add this letter to the public record you are compiling.

Sincerely *Betty Benson*