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

May 5, 2012

John Read  
Chief Litigation III Section  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
450 5<sup>th</sup> ST NW STE 4000  
Washington DC 20530

RE: Agency model and E-book pricing

Dear Mr. Read,

Free market capitalism used to work. It worked when the free market consisted of mom and pop stores in towns and cities across America.

Free market capitalism does not work when a huge multinational corporation comes to towns and cities, even the Internet, across America and sells products at prices lower than it costs to make them, let alone sell them by local independent bookstores.

The Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice can either encourage free market capitalism of locally owned stores or it can encourage the death of those stores which have been the backbone of a stable U.S. economy.

Agency model E-book pricing is a specific case where keeping the agency model helps to encourage independent local bookstores and book publishers to survive. Removing agency model E-book pricing will encourage the death of those same independent local bookstores, like ours, as well as the smaller book publishers while encouraging the growth of a handful of multinational corporations.

The agency model has been working to allow bookstores and publishers to exist and compete with Amazon. Removing it will kill the competition and result in the closing of more bookstores and publishers.

I strongly urge you to retain the agency model E-book pricing in the publishing industry. It will help keep our local economies healthy.

Sincerely,

John Marshall  
Co-Owner/Co-Manager

*The Episcopal Bookstore, because **what** you read makes a difference.*