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585-637-2260 www.liftbridgebooks.com
Open Evenings & Weekends

John Read
Chief Litigation III Section
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20530
April 26, 2012

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of myself- a proprietor of an independent book store that has been in business for 40 years. We have weathered every storm - and believe me there have been plenty of threats to independent book selling over the years. Somehow, we, as a country, so far, have withstood the temptations of consolidation in the field of publishing and selling books- mostly, I suspect, because, of the restrictions & limitations consolidation brings with it.

Now we are under siege again. The economics of selling ebooks threaten our very existence.

Ebooks are an important part of the reading future. It is vital that book stores be able to sell them in order to stay in business.

Bookstores are an essential component of our culture. They are a front line for free speech. They are a place in our communities that offer alternatives. They need to be here.

Therefore it is in the best interests of this country to maintain a level playing field for business of book selling for every conceivable reason- economics, culture, freedom of speech, vitality of the community, maintaining the local tax base- to name a few.

You are in grave danger of destroying real competition in the marketplace, in a false pursuit of theoretical competition in the courts.

Please consider the big picture as you deliberate the issues currently before the Dept of Justice regarding ebook fairness.

Sincerely,

Pat Kutz co-owner

Lift Bridge Book Shop