



June 22, 2012

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

Dear John Read:

I write to you today to add my voice to those who affirm that the agency model must be preserved to help maintain diversity and competition in the bookselling industry.

The agency model has benefitted independent and chain bookstores, the publishing industry and especially, consumers. Since the introduction of the agency model many more independent booksellers are able to sell e-books. Prior to this, Amazon had an effective monopoly on the e-book market by distorting the market and pricing below cost. This practice by a single large and powerful entity taken to its logical conclusion would result in the drastic reduction and ultimate elimination of competition among retailers. With the agency model, competition has increased, offering more customers more choices.

I believe that the importance of the agency model cannot be overstated as regards the health and vibrancy of this industry.

Sincerely,

Tova Beiser
Merchandise Manager, Trade Books
Brown Bookstore

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