

**From:** Mary Goodfader [mailto:ma[REDACTED] ]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** Read, John  
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**Subject:** DOJ lawsuit against the publishers

Since 1969. when I opened my small general independent bookstore, with the goal of personal service, and the wish to supply the reader with the book they wanted, I have been amazed by the competition in the business. It wasn't competition on better service, but rather that of undercutting prices. First there was Crown Books, discounting bestsellers. Then there were Barnes and Noble and Borders, giant stores, discounting bestsellers to cost and everything else 10 %. These stores were competitive with "loss leaders." Entice the customer and then make a profit.

So, I have seen the many challenges that have faced the independent bookstore, but have seen nothing that matched the ferocity and determination of Jeff Bezos and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). With the sole intention of putting the independent, brick-and-mortar store out of business, he has been "selling" books at cost without sales tax assessment. While he doesn't seem to have any real interest in books and literature, this megalomaniac seems to want only one thing: to be the only provider, publisher and distributor of books in the world. How the Dept of Justice could side with him, sue the publishers, and accuse them of conspiracy and price-fixing is beyond my comprehension. When the DOJ asks to eliminate the "agency model," the free market is destroyed. The result is true price fixing. The result will be the destruction of true literary publishers and quality of literature. I thought this country discouraged monopolies and tax evasion. I

thought those two qualities were punishable crimes. Yet, you seem to be going after the very ones that maintain a free flowing stream of information, and the very ones that collect tax to keep our country operating.

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