

June 18, 2012
4431 Wickford Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21210

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

RECEIVED *KMW*

JUN 27 REC'D 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read,

As a longtime book author, I am writing to express my astonishment that the DOJ is using tax-payer dollars to prosecute book publishers in such a way that will allow Amazon to once again pursue its goal of becoming the dominant force in e-books, a development that would yet further undermine the whole economic model of the book industry that allows authors to make some kind of reasonable income.

From the moment Amazon has come on the scene, it has been hostile to writers and publishers. Even before a book has been published, Amazon is offering discounted "used" copies front and center on its website. When it began selling and promoting e-books, it sold them deliberately at a loss, anticipating (correctly at the time) that it would soon become so dominant, it could set the agenda for future book sales. The arrival of Apple really saved the day, allowing a new player for e-books, while the Nook helped dilute Amazon's near-monopoly.

So one would be very curious to know why the U.S. government is now serving as an "enabler" to once again allow Amazon to retrieve its monopoly status and once again pursue its longtime goal of emerging as THE dominant player. As a U.S. taxpayer, and a writer who has earned her living through books, I would strongly urge that this suit be dropped. If the ultimate goal is to promote competition, the DOJ should actually be investigating Amazon and its practices. Is it legal to sell books at a loss for however long it takes to destroy one's competitors? That would seem to be the truly germane question.

Sincerely yours,

Jill Jones

