

John Read  
Chief, Litigation III Section  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
450 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 4000  
Washington DC 20530

June 18, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Read,

We are writing today in support of the independent booksellers of our country. We strongly believe that the agency model must be preserved to help maintain diversity and competition in the bookselling industry. The agency model has lowered prices to independent bookstore customers. Independent booksellers have seen significantly increased price competition among publishers in regard to promotions, discounts and special offers, all of which have benefitted the customers of their brick and mortar stores.

Please keep these facts in mind when making your determination. We strongly support small businesses—they are one of the economic backbones of our country and must not be weakened and undermined by our government.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,  
*Donald Burkhardt*  
*Bernadette Burkhardt*

Don and Bernadette Burkhardt  
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