

From: John D. Kotler [mailto:jdkotl[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:35 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Cc: jdkotl[REDACTED]
Subject: Publisher Lawsuit
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Read,

I am writing concerning the Department of Justice's civil lawsuit against Apple Computer and five U.S. publishers accusing them of collusion in the pricing of e-books. I strongly urge you and the Justice Department's Antitrust Division to reconsider this suit in light of the fact that it may significantly damage U.S. publishers and booksellers and, as a result, severely reduce the quality, quantity, and variety of books available to the American public. It is my understanding that much of this case rests on the assumption that the lawsuit will lead to lower book prices for consumers. However, the recent article by Ken Auletta in the June 25, 2012, issue of *The New Yorker* calls that assumption into question. Were the suit to go forward successfully and Amazon to regain its unrivalled dominance in e-book market share, what would stop the company from gaining a monopolistic advantage that would enable it to raise prices as it pleases? But, in truth, the lowest prices are not the only measure of the public good. A vibrant publishing industry and network of booksellers across the nation help to ensure that a wide range of books with a variety of voices and perspectives are always available to inform and enlighten our nation's readers. That public good, for our culture and our democracy, is priceless!

As a reader, writer, and lover of books and book stores, I respectfully request that you give urgent and thoughtful consideration to this issue.

Sincerely,

John D. Kotler
Kensington, Maryland
(301) 493-4981