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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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I cannot overstate my disgust at the U.S. Justice Department's proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. I echo the words of numerous industry analysts: This isn't a remedy, it's a reward.

I wonder what would happen if some mafia boss made the same proposal to Mr. Ashcroft. Would he agree, saying, "Gosh, Mr. Gotti, you mean to all those people you murdered, but if you promise not to do it any more, you can keep all the money you stole"? Remember, Microsoft agreed to change its ways before in a consent decree, and simply ignored it when it was no longer convenient for them.

Simply put, Microsoft is in the position to dictate U.S. policy today, and it got that way by breaking the law. I strongly urge you to back away from this settlement. Continuing abuses and security problems at Microsoft underline the need for real reform there, not surrender by Justice.

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