

From: Jimhandoc@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/3/01 8:47pm
Subject: Microsoft "Settlement"

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that you have solicited public comment on the proposed settlement offer, particularly with respect to the plan to provide computers and software to schools.

I would simply say that I strongly object to this offer. It does not punish Microsoft in any way - it simply serves to promote their monopoly. I recognize that a monopoly is not illegal, but the means by which Microsoft has achieved their market share has been clearly anti-competitive. I have the utmost respect for true innovators and inventors, and Microsoft has been neither. Unfortunately, our patent laws have not been adequate to let the true innovators profit from their inventions, and now it appears that our laws will not protect the "little guys" who have been coerced to sell or have been driven out of business by the anti-competitive business practices.

Our country and its competitive position in the world will ultimately suffer in the long term if this short term "fix" is allowed to stand. The fact that lots of investors and institutions in this country have investments in Microsoft stock is not a reason to prop up the company with this settlement.

Please reject the settlement - Microsoft must answer for their past actions and be prohibited from similar actions in the future.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

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