

**From:** Barbara J Cline  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/4/02 12:54pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

3621 Oakwood Drive  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

January 4, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to offer my views on the antitrust lawsuit that has been going on between Microsoft and the federal government. I have been reading about this case in the Wall Street Journal, and it is one that I have never understood or agreed with. I support your decision to settle.

The case has had no positive effects, and the negative effects have been many. Schools are being hurt, the stock market has been affected, and the economy has dwindled as a result of the technology industry being hindered during the past three years while this case has gone on. In addition, the whole idea of the case is wrong in that it is stepping on the development of ideas, and this is a poor message for the government to be sending.

Our economy is really struggling at the moment, and the government should be trying to find ways to stimulate it rather than ways to keep it down. Settling with Microsoft was a step in the right direction. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Charles Cline

cc: Sen. Charles Grassley