

From: The Dews
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 5:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Robert Dew

5564 Ribbon Rose Drive

Jacksonville, Florida 32258

January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Competition is the driving force behind a free market capitalist society. Without competition the entire system is unworkable. I believe that the antitrust lawsuit filed against Microsoft almost seriously threatened to hinder competition within the information technology market. I was relieved when a settlement was finally reached in November.

The agreement drafted in November is quite positive. Some of the beneficial terms in the settlement are; the settlement provides for the increase in competition among software companies by prohibiting Microsoft from entering into any agreements with third parties that would restrict the third party to distributing exclusively Microsoft software, the settlement further lends to an increase in competition by requiring Microsoft to share interface capabilities with other

competitor software companies.

Clearly, this settlement promotes competition, and competition is good. By not overly restricting Microsoft or the information technology market, this settlement is going to be beneficial for the economy. No changes need to be made. I urge you to keep the settlement in its current form.

Sincerely,

Robert Dew

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