

From: Cottrill, Carole
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/11/02 2:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Case

January 11, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am a great believer in the American dream--working hard, believing in yourself, pursuing something that is yours alone--and the rewards that will result from these principles. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, followed his dream and achieved more than anyone, even probably him, believed possible. He has since been punished for this by having to spend more than three years in court. Your office too has faced hardship and expense in this case.

The Department of Justice brought an antitrust case against Microsoft three years ago, charging monopolistic practices; i.e. his products were too good; hence, people bought too many, ignoring other firms' products. The case was eventually settled, with Microsoft acquiescing to the Department of Justice's demands, and satisfying many of Microsoft's competitors' desires. Microsoft will, for example, share software information with its competitors and allow them to place their software on the Windows operating system.

Microsoft and the Department of Justice have made an equitable settlement. The American people want to move on. I want to see an end to federal action in this case, and the settlement is the best option to end it.

Sincerely,

C. Cottrill