From: Lee Wagstaff
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 5:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Lee Wagstaff
614 Pine Tree Court
Walled Lake, MI 48390-

Attorney General John Ashcroft
January 12, 2002
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I have very strong feelings regarding the recent settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I believe that the government's intervention in Microsoft affairs has done much to hurt the local and global economy. Mr. Attorney General, wrap up this settlement now. We can not continue to pride ourselves on our "competitive spirit" and then take action against a company that has bolstered the entire economy of our country by that very same spirit. And, worse, this action was taken as a result of a few complaining companies that could not prosper in a competitive environment and, as a result, blamed Microsoft for their failure. When the complaining and ultimate threat of legal action drove Microsoft market value down, it deteriorated the overall market creating a hole that many companies fell into. Again, Mr. Attorney General, put an end to this economy debilitating, legal misadventure.

Everyone knows Microsoft has made very significant strides in the innovation of this industry. These major innovations may have given the impression that Microsoft desired to gain unreasonable control over the market. Not so. But in an effort to placate the punitively sponsored objections of its competitors, Microsoft has agreed to remove certain software features from its Windows Operating System to prevent imposition of future antitrust violations. Several changes have been made in their business practices.. Microsoft will disclose the internal interfaces and protocols of its Windows software to competitors; allow competitors to modify Windows to take out Microsoft software and put in their own; and have oversight from a Technical Committee. Their compliance has gone beyond the restrictions and obligations at issue in the lawsuit. I think that this is more than a fair indicator that Microsoft is willing to get back to the business of developing new products.

It is hoped that my expressed views on this issue will aid in the resolution of this matter. I am more than happy to know that there is so much cooperative effort to that end. Thank you for your wise leadership.

With deepest regards,