

**From:** mary vensel  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/26/02 9:20am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

MARY W. VENSEL  
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January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to take a moment to express some of my views regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I feel that the settlement that your office reached was fair and reasonable. I do not see a need for further action at the federal level, especially while Microsoft is involved in negotiations with the remaining states to reach a conclusion.

I believe that this case has hurt not just Microsoft, but the IT industry as a whole, in the sense that it has forced the focus to shift from innovation to litigation. We must restore economic confidence by ensuring that success with consumers will not cause government retaliation, and that standardization and interoperability can win out in the marketplace.

By placing Microsoft under the supervision of an oversight committee to monitor its practices and giving competitors access to Windows code, your settlement will force Microsoft to become a more responsible industry leader, while allowing the competition to share some of its success. Consumers will have more choices, competitors will have more chances, and Microsoft will retain some of the benefits of its innovation.

We must ensure that our country maintains its position as the world's technology leader. I believe that your settlement will allow that to happen. I hope your office will see fit to end this debacle at the federal level and allow the industry and the economy to move forward.

Sincerely,

Mary W. Vensel