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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

AOL bought Netscape while the anti trust case was on going, assuming the government would slow Microsoft up with the court case and possibly hand Netscape a victory which would allow AOL to capitalize on that with little effort to itself.

There never was any concern for the public in this case.

The public benefits from affordable products. - Microsoft produces those.

Netscape itself saw the benefit to the consumer of combining the server with the operating system and tried to do that before Microsoft ever did, even though it had a monopoly on servers at the time. That in itself demonstrates that in the world of technology a monopoly lasts only until a better product comes along, had Netscape been able to do a better operating system there would be no Microsoft to speak of. It was there product which did not win in the market.

The public benefits from a system that is easy to operate.- Microsoft produces that, Netscape tried and failed, and can still try again. AOL is big enough to push that forward if it chooses.

The public benefits from a stable product.- Microsoft was working on and has now produced that.

The latter was what Sun Microsystems and AOL feared most and had to stop , one way or another, as that was the biggest threat to their businesses.

The public has watched the economy sabotaged by hiked up values on the stock exchange as other companies thought they would make a fortune in Microsoft's demise, that never happened because a many faceted system is doomed to failure. Speaking with a single tongue is the only way forward for technology.

Instead of straightening out its business problems, AOL has decided to spend its time and effort filing lawsuits against tough competitors - a petty, distracting pursuit that won't help AOL or, for that matter, the U.S. economy, which depends on firms like Microsoft for the innovation necessary to bring about a technology revival.

It will hurt AOL most in the end as Microsoft has the will and ability to close its eyes to the distractions leave them to the lawyers and keep working on its products.

My biggest concern in all of this is that while Microsoft is using its own money to fight this case and others, AOL and Sun are using tax payers money to fight their battles. The tax payers are not in unison about their tax

dollars being spent that way -that money is needed elsewhere, particularly now.

Tax payer with a different fiscal agenda, Felicity Marsh.