

From: douglasross
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 6:12pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

16 Fort Street
Springfield, MA 01103-1208

January 23, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am in favor of the Department of Justice's decision to settle the Microsoft antitrust case. The case has dragged on for long enough. Obviously, Microsoft has the resources to continue the litigation for an extended period of time. I would rather see the taxpayers' money spent on other endeavors.

I do not believe the government fully understood the technological issues involved in this suit. The Department of Justice's position was comprised by this lack of understanding. Given this disparity, the best course of action is settlement.

The terms of the settlement agreement appear reasonable enough. For example, Microsoft has agreed to allow computer makers and consumers to replace features of Microsoft software with that of Microsoft's competitors. This will result in opening up the competition. The reality of the situation is that we live in a Microsoft world. The settlement provides mechanisms for Microsoft's competitors to compete in this world. Microsoft's agreement to disclose interfaces that are internal to the Windows operating system products will also achieve this end.

I support the DOJ's efforts toward resolving this litigation.

Sincerely,

Douglas Ross

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