

From: Fraser Smithson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 9:47am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please enter my letter attached in comment for Microsoft Settlement Public comment.
Fraser Smithson

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January 31, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I believe the antitrust case against Microsoft should never have been brought. However, as it was actually brought three years ago, I believe that the settlement agreement is the best think for Microsoft, and for America. Continuing this wasteful litigation will not benefit any one.

The settlement was not reached in haste. All parties had a chance to bring up their concerns and grievances and issues during three months of negotiations with the mediator appointed by the new federal judge on the case. Microsoft gets to stay intact. The companies behind the government antitrust action get Microsoft to abandon many of its legal rights. Copyrights and patents of intellectual property rights were protected by America's Founding Fathers in the United States Constitution over two hundred years ago. Microsoft has taken a strong stance to protect its intellectual property. After all, intellectual property, the collected, written down in software code, and tested mental power of its employees is practically the whole business worth of the software industry. I know that Bill Gates and his co-workers at Microsoft have faced difficult challenges in the past, since they were founded a little over twenty years ago. Under the settlement, Microsoft will be helping the entire computer industry, including the many leading companies that are American. That should be seen as in the best American interest.

Thank you for your support of the Microsoft antitrust settlement.

Sincerely,



Fraser Smithson