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January 23, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Please accept the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. As a long-time user of Microsoft products, I see this agreement as the most practical solution for competitors to thrive, short of a break up that would risk consumers losing a quality, stable presence in the software industry.

Seemingly inspired by a lack of monetary support from the last administration, this government intervention into the business world has been off base from the start. With this deal, Microsoft's market position is clearly weakened, so any further litigation would be an even more misguided attempt to manipulate the marketplace on behalf of the "consumer." Microsoft will allow computer manufacturers broad freedoms to configure Windows with the software of their choice without preference in future licensing deals and will provide competitors with extensive access to its internal code, among other agreed measures to expand competition.

Considering the constant verification by a committee of experts to monitor the deal, I ask for you to support for this overly fair settlement. The IT industry and the economy will greatly benefit from the return of stability to the software marketplace. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

Forrest Muire

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