

4911 Bainbridge Court Southwest
Liburn, GA 30047

January 24, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The lawsuit that has reached a tentative agreement between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice was flawed from the start. The initial aim of settlement was to break up a perceived monopoly and stop Microsoft from infringing in consumer rights.

First off, Microsoft does not fall under the terms of the definition for monopoly because it does not sell poor quality goods at inflated rates. Microsoft in fact has consistently delivered user-friendly products that far outdo their competitors. They have also not infringed on our rights, because all consumers made a conscious decision to purchase Microsoft. The terms of the settlement violate Microsoft's intellectual property rights as they force them to disclose for use by competitors interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products.

I urge your office to take a firm stance against the nine states that want to continue litigation. Put an end to this dispute so that the cornerstone of the IT sector can continue to innovate as it has in the past. It is in the public's best interests to settle.

Sincerely,



Ralph Knight