

Brent Smith
12025 Gold Pointe Lane
Gold River, CA 95670

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Sir:

Given this open comment period, I am writing to give you my thoughts on the Microsoft settlement. I have been following this case for some time and am familiar with the issues involved. This compromise between the DOJ and Microsoft is long past due and accepting it now is a necessary action to help revitalize our computer industry.

I am self-employed and use Microsoft software to help run my business. Their company is responsible for building up our existing computer industry. They've provided consumers with superior products but now are being punished for that.

In a move toward the future, Microsoft is limiting its own competitiveness so that the lawsuit might end. They are sharing an unprecedented amount of their intellectual property with their competitors and have agreed to tone down their often-aggressive marketing practices. This settlement is more than fair to Microsoft's rivals and is clearly in the public interest. Please make the necessary decision to end this lawsuit as soon as possible. Our struggling economy can afford no less.

Sincerely,



Brent Smith