



FAX

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PAGES:
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TO:

Renata Hesse

COMPANY:

USDOJ

FAX#:

202-307-1454

FROM:

K. Van Meteren

DATE:

1/4/02

MESSAGE:

See Attached Letter

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January 3, 2001

Judge Kollar Kotelly
Attn: Renata Hesse
U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Judge Kollar Kotelly:

The time has come to bring closure to the Microsoft case. Thankfully, President Bush's Department of Justice has come to an agreement with the Microsoft Corporation that settles this case and addresses the concerns of the complaint.

The costs of this case to the American taxpayers have been astronomical. To date the federal government has spent in excess of \$35 million dollars chasing Microsoft and this figure does not include the millions that the states have invested in this lawsuit. Taxpayer dollars were spent needlessly on a case in which the government has yet to prove consumer harm.

Rather than be harmed, Americans have benefited in their use of the world's most advanced and affordable software. At this moment in history, our nation is faced with serious economic concerns on both the national and state levels. It is crucial that all taxpayer dollars are spent in the most responsible manner. The continued prosecution of this case is not, in my opinion, an example of responsible use of government revenues.

Based on reports that I have read, the proposed settlement offers an evenhanded resolution to this case. This, combined with today's economic realities, argues strongly for your approval of this settlement.

As an independent businessman and taxpayer, I encourage you to accept this settlement.

Sincerely,

Kristian D. Van Meteren, General Partner

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