7026 Via Ostiones
Carlsbad, CA 92009-6614

January 11, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The antitrust lawsuit leveled against Microsoft by the Federal Government was completely unfounded and totally unjustified. However, since a settlement was reached between the parties, it should be accepted and finalized by the courts as soon as the public comment period ends.

I personally feel the main tenets of the settlement go too far, are not fair to Microsoft and hurt the ideals of free enterprise and capitalism. Microsoft could easily go on fighting this thing out in the courts for years. However, Microsoft has very nobly agreed to accept and abide by the terms of the settlement instead of wasting millions of taxpayer dollars in round after round of court battle with the Federal Government.

For all intents and purposes the Federal Government won this case and should be very pleased with the outcome. The fact that Microsoft will now be forced to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with programs included in Windows is proof that the Federal Government has met its objective. Additionally, Microsoft will be forced to document and disclose its various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products - a first in an antitrust settlement. Furthermore, Microsoft must make available to its competitors any protocols implemented in Windows' operating system products that are used to interoperate natively with any Microsoft server operating system. Finally, Microsoft has agreed to a three-person Technical Committee that will monitor Microsoft's compliance with the settlement and assist with dispute resolution.

The government did the same thing to Bell Telephone Company back in the late 1970's. The results were tragic and I fear that the government did not take into account the future impact and this too will have a tragic effect on technology and the entire world. It appears that the Federal Government, at taxpayer's expense, won't stand for progress and will do everything it can to penalize or destroy the guy "out front," such is the case with Microsoft. Microsoft has transformed the face of the planet for the better and should be left alone once and for all. Please finalize this settlement as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Golden