John Held
16329 170th Ave. NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

January 21, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing today to encourage the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I work within the technology industry and I think it is time to let the industry get back to business. For over three years government has bogged down Microsoft with lawsuits. It is time to put this issue to rest.

During the period that the government has been trying to break Microsoft up the industry has had some tough times. Most stock is down, many companies have gone out of business, and the industry leader has had to deal with a hostile government.

Microsoft has given a lot of ground to get this over with. They are willing to share some of their trade secrets to competitors; give up their leverage over computer makers by adopting uniform prices; and submit to the oversight of an independent technical committee. They have agreed to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit.

The settlement is fair and should be accepted by the government. I hope you use your authority and influence to help that happen.

Sincerely,

John Held

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