State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

January 12, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney Hesse:

I write to offer my support for the settlement proposed in the case of *U.S. v Microsoft*. As a State Representative serving the Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire, I believe that although government should protect consumers and make sure they are not taken advantage of by big business, the government's prosecution of Microsoft has been misguided. Microsoft is a very large company and does have an influence in many consumers' lives; but it is a positive influence that has helped to increase work efficiency and communication.

I am very much a proponent of wisely spending the money that citizens give to government and believe spending has been wasteful in this case. It is time for the government to step back and allow the Microsoft settlement to stand. Too much time, effort and money has been spent reaching this settlement. Further money and time can be better spent elsewhere, especially in these difficult times.

With the current economic situation in mind, the government should support innovation and companies, like Microsoft, that are having a positive impact in our lives and creating jobs and a positive trade flow in the international balance of payments.

Please approve this settlement.

Sincerely,

John Balcom
State Representative, Hillsborough 18

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1/3/2002