TATUM CIO PARTNERS, LLP

January 28, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This is to give my approval to the recent settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. In my opinion, this suit should never have been brought. I am from the mainframe generation. I remember how hard it was. There was no compatibility between software programs or different hardware. Nothing worked. Bill Gates came along and changed all that. Bill Gates streamlined computer programs into more useable formats, increased compatibility of computer software programs, making this country the dominant force in the computer industry. And for this he was punished. Punished by the government, and punished by his competitors, who could not compete in any other way. We tell our kids to be the best and the brightest, yet when they do succeed, the government is looking over their shoulder. This is wrong.

Microsoft has led my industry with many advances beyond computer compatibility issue. Scalable operating systems, office applications, e-Commerce, and Internet navigation immediately come to mind. They have become the leader in areas that required consensus in order to proceed along viable paths, which provided benefits to my industry and strengthened our nation's competitive position. It wasn't too long ago that multiple and conflicting infrastructure products created an impossible technical environment. I feel without Microsoft's efforts in these key areas the resulting chaos would raise the cost and frustration in doing business. Microsoft deserves the recognition and the profits associated with their success.

With this agreement, Microsoft has agreed to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit. Microsoft has agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers at identical prices; Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs; Microsoft has agreed to a technical committee to monitor future adherence. Enough is enough.

MTC-00031822_0001

We have to put this behind us and move forward. Give your support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bernard Goldband

Bernard Goldband
Partner