From: Ben
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 11:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am a Microsoft "Consumer", as well as a Microsoft shareholder in my IRA. I am
retired and a Social Security recipient. And I guess that this is my only opportunity to say what I think re the DOJ vs. Microsoft settlement. So here it is.

If Netscape, Sun Microsystems, et al, think that they have been "screwed", how about me? As I recall, Netscape joined with AOL in a deal that paid Netscape appx. four billion dollars. Now isn't that a sad story! But I had Microsoft stock in my IRA for my retirement days (I am now 73 years of age), and I lost 50% of my retirement fund within days of the time that Judge Jackson, extremely biased against Microsoft by anybody's standards,decided to rule that the company that has done more for the U.S. economy than any other in recent history should be split apart. My retirement funds, along with those of thousands of others, were lost apparently because Microsoft's competitors opted to pressure Congress (Orrin Hatch, for one) and the Department of Justice to make their businesses successful, rather than to achieve comparable success through their own brain power and effort.

I owned my own small business and no Attorney General, lawyers or courts helped me. My company provided good products and good service. And when I installed a Microsoft system (that makes me a "Consumer") I did not feel cheated. I was happy with the product I purchased and am still happy with the equipment I still use at home in my retirement years. But my retirement prospects are not nearly such a pretty sight due to this litigation that is going on and on and on and on.

The proposed settlement appears to be a good one for all concerned. My congratulations to both the Department of Justice and Microsoft for that. But what right do those still opposing the settlement have to harm me further for their own selfish interests? Let them get to work, just as I did (on a smaller basis, of course), and make it on their own merits instead of sponging off of someone else's intelligence and hard work.

In this time of national stress this country and all of us need all of the incentive our economy and our stock market can get. Our President is right! Our economy needs a stimulus -- and it won't come by cow-towing to limited selfish interests by such as those refusing to accept the proposed settlement and vowing to pursue further litigation. Let's get on with what's best for our country, our elderly (myself and my wife included), and all others with retirement programs of all ages, our military men and women, and those who are just plain happy with their Microsoft products. Enough of this particular hasseling and litigation. Bill and Melinda Gates

have set an outstanding example by donating over a billion dollars of their personal income (undoubtedly mostly from Microsoft profits) to very worthy charities throughout the world. How rewarding it would be if some of these litigation-happy competitors would do likewise with even a small fraction of the big bucks they are contributing to big-name trial lawyers!!

God Bless America.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. Ben Riva
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