From: Charlie Browne
To: Ms. Renata B. Heese
Date: 1/17/02 12:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement (Support)

Dear Ms. Heese:

I am writing in support of the recent settlement of the long-running antitrust lawsuit between the U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general and Microsoft Corporation. Though I applaud the nine state attorneys general that decided to follow the federal government's lead and settle the case, I am thoroughly disappointed that remaining state attorneys general and the District of Columbia have decided to further pursue this baseless case.

The settlement is fair to all. It will allow Microsoft's competitors to use Microsoft's Windows operating system to incorporate their software programs and will give consumers more services and products to choose from.

As you are well aware, members of Citizens for a Sound Economy have been unrelenting in our opposition to the federal government's antitrust case against Microsoft. For nearly 3 years, activists like myself have called, emailed, visited, and sent letters to the U.S. Department of Justice and to state attorneys' general offices explaining that Microsoft's actions did not harm consumers, but provided them with great benefits by lowering the cost and increasing the availability of software products. We have stressed that Microsoft is a pioneer in the high-technology market and that their products increased our familiarity with the Internet.

Once again, I thank you for your decision to settle this unfortunate lawsuit against a successful and innovative company.

Continued harrassment of Microsoft can only further weaken the economies of both the USA as well as Washington and the Puget Sound area. This state already has the second highest unenemployment rate in the nation. Enough is enough. They have been punished. We all have been punished! Look at the timing of the start of the nations economic demise and the position of Janet Reno's "case" in April of 2000.

Respectfully,

Charlie Browne
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CC:
Citizens for a Sound Economy