From: Jerry Higdon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I hope that the Justice Department will stick by the settlement it has reached with Microsoft. I feel it's a fair and just settlement and I hope that you urge the rest of the states who haven't yet settled to do so.

Microsoft has been put through the ringer for long enough and it's high time to end this whole mess and let them get back to business. The settlement is reasonable enough not to hurt them to the point where they are forced to go out of business but is harsh enough to silence most of their critics. For example, Microsoft will have to share information about the internal workings of its Windows operating system, which will allow computer makers to more easily install non-Microsoft software on Windows-based machines. This is harsh, but it is still better than Microsoft being broken up into little pieces.

The settlement will appease all interests in the Microsoft antitrust case. I support it, and hope to see if finalized soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Higdon