From: Pedro Celis (wrnha)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:06pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Republican National Hispanic Assembly
of Washington State

Dear Sirs,

As Chairman of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly of Washington State we offer our endorsement of the agreement reached by Microsoft, the U.S. Department of Justice and nine states. The settlement should be accepted not only for its specifics, but also for the principles that it represents.

Whenever conflicts arise, our government should strive to find common ground and reach compromises with business. Negotiation and settlement is a better model for government-business relations than litigation. It is unfortunate that the dispute between Microsoft and the government has already resulted in such a long and costly trial.

Better still, government should seek to minimize its interference with the competitive market place; it should work as an ally with, not an adversary to, business.

Litigation is never good for business or industry. Because virtually all businesses rely on technology, the Microsoft case affects us all. As the case proceeded, it appeared that government, not the competitive marketplace, might establish the direction of technology. Such an event would have proved disastrous for the technology industry, for the greater business community, and for the economy.

We are happy to see that a comprise and agreement has been reached between these parties and we encourage you to accept this settlement.

This settlement would be fair and reasonable at any time, even if our economy was growing at a rapid pace. However that is not currently the case, and for that reason it is all the more important that the settlement be finalized and the American technology industry starts to benefit from a public policy that minimizes costly regulation, ensures competition, and promotes fair trade and intellectual property enforcement in international markets.

Sincerely Yours,

Pedro Celis, Ph. D.
Republican National Hispanic Assembly
Washington State Chairman