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JANUARY 7, 2002

ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
950 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

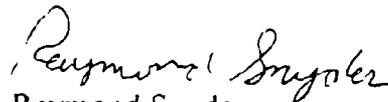
I am writing to express my opinion and beliefs on the recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice. I support the settlement 100%, but I am pessimistic about its passage and implementation.

First off, I believe that settlement was not unreasonable, but the nine states in opposition are just grandstanding for their own political agendas. Microsoft is getting a raw deal and I think the matter will ultimately end up in the Supreme Court

That is a pity, because the settlement is rather fair, and is the best that any rational person could expect. The settlement addresses the original complaints about Microsoft, and now they have been addressed by everything from barriers against retaliation for developing competing software to fixed licensing prices and redesign of Windows XP.

At any rate, the recession has had a devastating effect on state budgets and the federal budget, and it is important that the technology industry be allowed to concentrate on business now. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Raymond Snyder

CC: Senator Rick Santorum

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