

ORIGINAL

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October 13, 2008

Donald S. Clark  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Trade Commission, Room H-135  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580

Re: Proposed Consent Order  
In the Matter of Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint, FTC File No. 081-0133

Dear Mr. Clark:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Murray Detective Agency, LC regarding the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier.

Our organization is comprised of investigators who provide critical services to government agencies, attorneys, state and US courts and others. We rely extensively on services provided by both Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint and their subsidiaries to assist us in serving these clients.

Over the past several years there has been tremendous consolidation among providers of public records services. This proposed acquisition would further reduce competition in the industry. Although there are several providers of data services in the marketplace, they are resellers of data provided by the respondents.

The Commission's complaint found that this acquisition would be anticompetitive and a violation of antitrust law in the market for the sale of public records information to law enforcement agencies. The same effects would be felt in the market for sale of public records to the private sector.

As I'm sure you're aware, it is important to have access to data from several suppliers during any investigation. Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of information available and is likely to increase cost.

I urge that the Commission delay approval of this acquisition until respondents can divest themselves of public records services provided to private industry as well as to law enforcement.

Unless an appropriate remedy is offered, our firm and our clients will suffer irreparable harm. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers.

Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,

Terry Wight, member