



Peace of Mind

ORIGINAL



October 11, 2008

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

Re: Proposed Consent Order, Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint
FTC File #081-0133

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to urge the commission *not* to approve the acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier. These two companies, individually, control an inordinate amount of public record information and the idea of a merger has monopoly written all over it.

Reed Elsevier has already begun to eliminate its competition by suddenly and without explanation cutting off the supply of information to those of us who buy and resell this information to government agencies, corporations, courts, non-profit groups and others. These are small businesses that are now, as this letter is being written, being negatively impacted by these giants. This behavior not only constitutes shabby business practices but also reeks of unfair competition and restraint of trade.

I have worked hard for the last 28 years building my private investigation and information service businesses. I have witnessed the unbridled consolidation of public record information providers with a sense of angst that has now come to fruition.

The Commission has already found that this acquisition would be anticompetitive and a violation of antitrust law in the market for law enforcement agencies. Clearly, this will affect the private sector in the same way and small businesses will suffer irreparable harm.

Certainly a solution can be fashioned whereby these entities can divest their public record assets prior to the acquisition allowing the free flow of information to resellers and end users at competitive prices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

The Amherst Group, Inc.

Nicholas T. Savastano
President & CEO