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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



**JIM HOOD**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



October 6, 2008

William E. Kovacic, Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580

RE: Reed-Elsevier (Lexis Nexis)/Choice Point Merger

Dear Mr. Kovacic:

As a fellow enforcer of the prevailing antitrust laws, I write to express my continuing concern about the Reed-Elsevier (Lexis Nexis)/Choice Point merger. It is my impression that the only meaningful concession made by the companies was a small divestiture of a portion of ChoicePoint's business dealings with government and law enforcement. Accordingly, a large portion of the remaining customer base stands to be negatively affected.

The elimination of competition between ChoicePoint's "Autotrack" and Reed-Elsevier's "Accurint" products will likely have a detrimental impact on a national scope and in diverse ways. For example, I am particularly worried that this merger will result in higher prices for the public records aggregation services (PRAS) now being charged to consumers, non-profits, members of the legal community, insurance companies, and various financial institutions—who have grown dependent upon PRAS to efficiently engage in their respective endeavors.

The absence of true competition in the PRAS marketplace will provide the opportunity for the hiking of prices and diminution of the quality of services. Accordingly, I would be remiss not to express these continued concerns to you during this post-approval opportunity for comment. Please advise me where my conclusions are incorrect.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Hood  
Attorney General