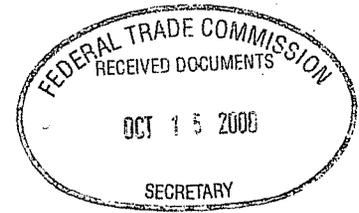


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Via FedEx

October 11, 2008

Mr. 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 on behalf of myself, a licensed California private investigator, regarding the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier.

Over the past several years there has been tremendous consolidation among providers of public records services. This proposed acquisition will 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 a small investigation business it is important to have access to data from several suppliers during the conduct of an investigation. Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of information available.

I urge that the Commission not approve the 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, my business and my clients will suffer irreparable harm. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Hoffman   
The Detective Company