

**ORIGINAL**

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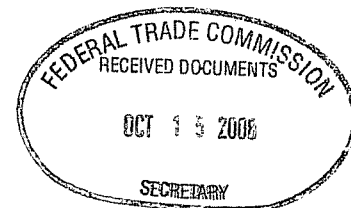
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Mr. Donald S. Clark  
Office of the Secretary  
United States Federal Trade Commission  
Room H-135  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580



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

Good afternoon Mr. Clark,

I'm writing today out of grave concern with respect to the proposed consent order and acquisition of ChoicePoint by Reed Elsevier. Our association is comprised of licensed professional investigators like myself who provide critical and time sensitive services to indigent clients, their attorneys, State government, insurance companies as well as others. We rely very extensively on data acquisition services provided by both Reed Elsevier and ChoicePoint as well as their subsidiaries to assist us in serving our clients for the protection of their Constitutional Rights in the criminal justice system and also and the prevention of fraud.

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 anti-competitive and a violation of Antitrust law in the market for the sale of public records information to law enforcement agencies. The exact same effect, would be felt perhaps to a much larger degree in the market for sale of public records to the private sector.

It is critically important to have access to accurate data from several suppliers during the conduct of an investigation. Limited resources reduce both the quality and quantity of

information available. Many of my colleagues who are small business owners such as myself do not have the volume or financial weight to bargain effectively with these large corporate entities in a non-competitive market environment.

I would respectfully request that the Federal Trade Commission not approve the acquisition until the named respondents can divest themselves of public records services provided to both the private industry as well as to law enforcement.

Unless an appropriate remedy is offered, both my colleagues and I and most importantly our respective clients will suffer irreparable harm. When competition is reduced, incentives for innovation are reduced, prices rise and service suffers. Many of my clients are facing possible life imprisonment and the mere thought that I may not be able to provide due diligence to those folks is absolutely unconscionable.

Thank you most sincerely for your time and consideration of my comments/concerns.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth A. Wilkel