



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

CONTACT: Chris Butler
Jesse R. Benton
202-785-0266

Taxpayers Urge DOJ Not to Appeal Oracle Decision

No Evidence of Antitrust Found, No Need To Keep Wasting Taxpayer Dollars

WASHINGTON - Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy organization, today applauded Judge Vaughn R. Walker decision to reject the Department of Justice's flawed antitrust attempt to block Oracle's takeover of PeopleSoft.

Last February, Americans for Tax Reform weighed in with the DOJ asking Assistant Attorney General R. Hewitt Pate to approve the proposed acquisition of PeopleSoft, Inc. by Oracle Corp. DOJ disagreed with ATR's assessment that the proposed acquisition did not violate antitrust laws and took Oracle to court. Judge Walker disagreed with the DOJ and will allow Oracle to move forward with its proposed acquisition of PeopleSoft.

"Judge Walker unequivocally ruled the Department of Justice case did not meet antitrust standards," said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **"The government has already wasted taxpayer dollars in this failed attempt to change antitrust rules. Now that Judge Walker has rebuffed this scheme, the DOJ needs to withdraw the case and stop wasting taxpayer dollars."**

Like the Microsoft antitrust controversy from the late 1990s, a Justice Department block of Oracle's acquisition would have imposed wide-ranging, damaging effects that threatened the fragile economic recovery, while harming shareholders, consumers, small businesses, and especially taxpayers who will have to pay for DOJ litigation blocking the move. The Microsoft case not only affected Microsoft but even the companies that were supposed to benefit from the proposed remedies. Moreover, other companies totally unrelated to the technology sector were negatively affected, resulting in a downward spiral of all companies. The popping of the technology bubble was immediate, rather than gradual, and the resulting dramatic loss of equity value and confidence threw America toward recession. After four years, it appears that the economy has finally shaken the effects of these consequences.

"In the last five years, America's economy has faced the technology burst, a recession, the worst terror attack in modern history, two ensuing wars, and financial scandals that shook the equity markets to their cores," continued Norquist. **"The Department of Justice's attempt to change the antitrust rules in the middle of the game would have imposed another shock on this sector. Judge Walker's decision was the right decision to make and now the technology sector can continue to flourish."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org