

THE ISLANDER BOOKSTORE

Serving Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

March 22, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are a privately-owned College Bookstore that has been servicing Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students since 2001. We offer textbooks, supplies, and spirit merchandise to the students. We also offer graduation announcements and diploma frames to our graduates. Until recently, we were able to offer cap & gown sets at a lower price than what was available through the Barnes & Noble on campus.

In the fall of 2010, the university began requiring students to purchase gowns that had university seals embroidered on them, and were of course, only available at the Barnes & Noble on campus. Prices have nearly doubled since the regalia have been made exclusive to Barnes & Noble. This has made it impossible for us to sell cap & gown sets. This also limits our sale of announcements and frames.

Federal and Texas antitrust laws were designed to prevent the use of market power because the consequence of its use is higher consumer prices. It is the consumer that is injured, and it is the monopolist that gains excessive profits.

Sincerely,

Victor Ruiz IV
Owner

March 15, 2011

To: Chairman Zaffarini
Vice-Chairman Birdwell
Senator Duncan
Senator Huffman
Senator Watson
Senator Wentworth
Senator West

From: Mr. Steven Boice, Texas Tech University Student

Re: SB 1005 "Bookstore Fairness Bill"

It is with great respect that I write the Senate Committee on Higher Education about an issue of bookstore fairness to address my concerns of high textbook costs. When I was first accepted to college, there is much excitement as well as fear of what lay ahead. With all the decisions to be made, I relied on the university to guide me many directions. That said, I assumed when I was directed to the on-campus bookstore, the college would have my best interests at heart.

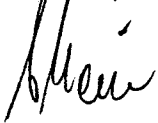
While it was convenient, I was not made aware of the many local bookstores available in Lubbock. It took a semester for me to learn my way around the campus as well as the city. Now I shop around for the best price textbooks to purchase as well as when I resale them.

This bill is invaluable to college students. With tuition and housing prices continually increasing, students need to be made aware of all the stores in the area so we can make the best decision on where to purchase for ourselves.

It is not fair to not be informed by the very school in which you put your trust. Please vote this bill from committee. Help keep more stores in business and textbook costs lower by creating a competitive environment not a monopolistic one.

Vote for Students and Bookstore Fairness. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven Boice

The Islander Bookstore

6133 South Alameda Street ☞ Corpus Christi, TX 78412 ☞ (361) 991-3052 ☞ Islanderbooks@hotmail.com

Mr. Robert L. Lovitt
Executive Vice President Finance & Administration
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Dear Mr. Lovitt:

I am writing on behalf of over 20 students that have come to the Islander Bookstore to purchase textbooks for both summer sessions of this year. These students were unable to purchase their course materials from the Islander Bookstore using their Emergency Book Loan that had been deposited to their SandDollar cards. There were several instances where the student found that Barnes & Noble on campus did not have the necessary textbooks in stock, but the Islander Bookstore did. Other students wanted to purchase used copies from the Islander Bookstore whereas Barnes & Noble only had new copies available. These students were upset that they did not have the option to choose the Islander Bookstore as a source for their needed course materials.

The Islander Bookstore has been a friendly and contributing neighbor to the University community for nearly five years. In the past year, we began accepting SandDollar cards designated for off campus merchants. The students rightfully assume that since we accept the SandDollar as a source of payment, they should be able to use the Emergency Book Loan to purchase their books here. Upon hearing that the funds are not available for them to use here, confusion leads to frustration towards the University for limiting their use of a loan for which the students are ultimately responsible. Reducing the choices available is not accepted among students. This is why I have felt the need to bring this matter to your attention.

The Islander Bookstore is keenly interested in doing whatever is necessary to be able to provide for students with Emergency Book Loans. We would like to be able to extend our service to the students who receive Emergency Book Loans, as they have shown the desire to purchase materials from us.

What can the Islander Bookstore do in order give the students a choice once again? What can we do to ensure that the money will be once again available to students wanting to decide where and how they spend their loan?

Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Victor Ruiz, Owner
The Islander Bookstore
(361)991-3052
Islanderbooks@hotmail.com

Texas Dental Hygiene Schools

Amarillo College
Donna Cleere, RDH, BS,
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Caruth School of Dental
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Del Mar College
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Lone Star College - Kingwood
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Texas State Technical College
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