

From: Beedy Parker <beedyparker@gwi.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2009 11:54 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Beedy <beedyparker@gwi.net>; Bob Sewall <sewall@midcoast.com>
Subject: public comment on US agriculture

To the Legal Policy Section, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice,

I am very concerned about what has been happening to our food system in the last generation. It appears to be almost completely controlled by very large corporations who have too much political power to influence government and legislation and regulation. (and the eating habits of the general public through advertizing). We have cheap food, but much of it is not good food, or even safe. The real farmers on the ground are not able to make a decent living, and the grunt farm laborers are below poverty level. Small local producers, many of them selling good healthy local food, are hampered by inappropriate regulations, (that they cannot afford to follow), designed for and by the mammoth producers. And inspite of environmental and health regulations, the large meat producers and processors are contaminating our water and food supply. Grocery stores are getting bigger and bigger and further and further away from neighborhoods of people who need to buy the food. Worst of all, for our future, the big seed companies are turning to patentable genetically engineered seeds, displacing the broad base of selected vegetable and grain varieties, and contaminating these strains with unknown, untested genetic traits.

Please address this unwise injustice.

Sincerely,

Beedy Parker

This is the biggest opening in 30 years. The Department of Justice is on a fact finding mission about agribusiness and they need to hear from us!

Are you concerned about where your food comes from? Do you care about the working conditions of farmers and food workers? Is it inconvenient to get to the store? Do you have access to fresh produce in your neighborhood? Are you concerned about meat and poultry packing conditions that threaten your health and that of the workers? Are you worried that corporate giants like Monsanto control a large share of our seed supply?

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are seeking our comments on consolidation in the food system by December 31, 2009. We have just five weeks to tell them what's wrong in our food system and make suggestions for how to fix it.

Please take the time to e-mail your comments to agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov.

Or you can submit two paper copies of your comments to Legal Policy Section, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 450 5th Street, NW, Suite 11700, Washington, D.C. 20001. All comments received will be publicly posted.

Please forward this e-mail to friends who may also like to submit comments. Thank you.

Five workshops will be held in 2010 in Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Washington, D.C. and Wisconsin. But the best way to get your concerns heard is to submit your written comments.

For specifics about the workshops:

<http://www.justice.gov/atr/public/workshops/ag2010/index.htm#overview>

Thanks for sharing this message with others.
