From: Lou Hegwer <LSHASTA@AOL.COM>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 9:20 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Address market concentration

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for recognizing the anti-competitive environment of agricultural markets in the United States. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on how the growing concentration in all sectors of agriculture affect my livelihood and the economic stability of my community.

A handful of meatpackers and poultry companies dominates the livestock industry and there are fewer and fewer independent seed companies providing seed to the farmers who grow the crops we eat. This near-monopoly power of these agribusiness corporations limits competition and makes it hard for farmers to afford inputs to grow their crops and then to get a fair deal and fair price.

I look forward to both USDA and DOJ gaining a better understanding of these problems and using their regulatory authority to address these issues that impact every farmer, rancher and consumer of our country.

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