

**From:** Beth Beasley <eabeasley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 9:43 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** comments from the Hendersonville Community Coop Board of Directors

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December 17, 2009

Dear Messrs & Mesdames:

We, the Board of Directors of the Hendersonville Community Coop in Hendersonville, NC, are concerned about a number of issues related to modern agriculture.

We believe that access to fresh, affordable, whole, healthy foods is a right for all Americans.

**We are concerned over the industrial monocultures that have developed, especially genetically modified corn and genetically modified soy, which replace the bio-diversity in agriculture that is essential to long-term food security.**

**We believe in the long-term integrity and viability of organically produced food and doubt claims of bio-tech giants like Monsanto who take power from individual farmers for their own profit.**

**We believe in the inviolable right and freedom to share and save seeds, and don't believe biological organisms should be patented, much less altered.**

**We believe that in order to promote prosperous, healthy communities, an emphasis on locally grown and certified organically grown produce needs to be nurtured on a nationwide basis.**

We are concerned about the rise of obesity and Type 2 diabetes in our community—which we believe is linked to current food production and marketing methods.

We are concerned about the loss of small farms in our region. We would like to see support for small farmers growing produce for local distribution.

We view the current food distribution infrastructure as non-sustainable and envision a future in which natural resources like water are used wisely and in which the use of fossil fuels is minimized or eradicated in favor of renewable energies.

We believe in safe working conditions for farm laborers throughout the country, and envision a life of dignity, including fair wages, for agricultural and food plant workers across the nation.

We are concerned about the conditions animals face in major feeding operations and the related implications for food safety as well as for the environment.

**Signed: Tony Womack, President; Beth Beasley, Vice-President; Carolyn Widener, Secretary; Roger Hull, Treasurer; Laura Miklowitz; Ron Angermuller; Susan O'Brien; Kristin Harkey; Marilyn Jackson.**

**Board of Directors, Hendersonville Community Coop**

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