

**From:** joesmeraldi@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 7:38 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

---

joe smeraldi  
123 roger st  
tewksbury, MA 01876-2639

December 17, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

When are we going to stop protecting special interest and start protecting the people, the constitution was created to protect the masses, not the special interest.

Did you know that once a genetically modified gene is planted in the wild it can never be retrieved? how can we allow these companies to experiment with nature and our food supply. These plants are destroying organic farms around the world.

In addition these modified genes were pushed with the notion that they would create stronger plants that would need less pesticides. But that is not true with the Monsanto plants, they have lead to an INCREASE in pesticide use, and residue on our foods.

Sincerely,

joe smeraldi  
9789875779