

From: Howard Cohen <howard@cohensw.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 11:00 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets and the difficulties in getting real, healthy food (as opposed to plastic, over sugared, processed food-like substances).

Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

It is crucial to know what's in our food. We need decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified so we can make intelligent choices for our own and our families' health.

There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards. This must end.

Prices are rising at the supermarket, but farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year. The monopolists are squeezing out the small farmers and damaging the integrity and breadth of our food supply.

Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security.

They are also poisoning us with the use of non-organic agriculture, the over-dependence on corn as a food stock, the use of antibiotics, pesticides, herbicides and other poisons in our food chain.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Howard Cohen

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