

From: Kat Taylor <kat.byteme@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 5:47 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Everyone needs good healthy food to survive and flourish. To put our food resources into the hands of a few profit motivated companies is a risky and unsustainable practice. The price of food and the poor quality of our mostly processed food diet is what is driving our health care costs since we need fresh uncontaminated food supply if people are to be strong. Our dependency on the food pipeline leaves us open to disruptions of every kind from crop disease to contamination by terrorists. We would be unable to prevent wide scale hunger if the pipeline were broken.

You only have to look at the state of our nation's health to know that the current system is not working. We need to change the way we farm, growing locally instead of industrially; and we need to put control of our food supply back into the hands of the people who consume it. Buying locally grown foods, instead of foods trucked from a few agribusiness locations, stimulates the local economy in all states and gives us the lifeline we need incase of a national disaster.

There is a grassroots movement in America to take back control of our local food supply. People who have never gardened before are planting small scale gardens for their own use; they are buying from local growers to obtain healthy food they cannot get in the major food chains; sustainable living is uppermost in people's minds as our non-renewable resources dwindle. To legally allow companies to patent seed and food is beyond greed, it is reminiscent of slavery where the masters withhold food to control behavior. Are the American people to be subject to companies like Monsanto who are buying up the rights for farmers to grow and harvest their own seed? Where will it stop?

I invite you to watch "The Future of Food" <http://www.hulu.com/watch/67878/the-future-of-food> a documentary on the business practices of Monsanto and an interview with Bill Moyers and Michael Pollen on the way we grow and distribute our food <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/11282008/watch.html> . Pollan brings up some very sound solutions to our nation's food dilemma. Our agricultural destructive practices are at the heart of our health and energy crisis and a major contributor to our environmental issues. We need change the way we produce food so that we can become healthier spending less while contributing to our local economy.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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