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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 7:48 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment From Doug Harris USA, NC, Wake County citizen

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December 18, 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."

It becomes important for you to know what I am doing (not thinking about but doing) in action against our current USA government stand on agriculture, monocropping, GMO's, fresh water abuses, and war like foreign affairs. I have decided to be legal in everything I do and have decided to plant my own crops on my land (going really good so far), raise my own chickens and goats (done already), and install small items on the homestead to assure low low consumerism. I have made a pact with myself to reduce my consumerism to zero and I am well on the path. I have consolidated savings and quit my tax paying job. I will pay taxes legally, and live off the land and from my accounting background, I should be able to divert thousands in spending that goes to agribusiness, government, and military. Frankly, I have decided to empower myself to not allow my pocket book to grow things other than things for myself. I tith my contributions to society now and I am a loud proponent and example to others that they can do the same. I am an urban farmer now and will stay that way until my government starts representing what America was built on. I am American. I will vote with my pocket book. No wars - no messing with food and especially water. I will be 80% self sufficient within a two year time frame. I am a college graduate and avid reader of all this "new information" that media has managed to keep by the wayside.

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.

Sincerely,

Douglas Haley Harris