From: Jessica Fritz <picassoscat400@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 8:20 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: corporate dominance in the food supply system

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing in response to learning of the agricultural workshops planned for the next year.

I am a health care executive and mother of 3 small children and I am gravely concerned about the state of the US and global food supply. It is very difficult to find afford-ably priced food that is locally produced, nearly impossible to know the full contents of the food we eat and completely impossible to know the origin of the food I buy. Moreover, the lack of nutritional diversity is compromising the health of my family. The dominance of corn based products in the grocery store and in the diet of livestock threatens our nation. As we seek to improve our healthcare system, how can we not examine and change the impact our food system has on health and subsequent health care costs.

I live in Illinois and the impact huge conglomerates have had upon the independent farmer is outrageous. The control of seed supply by a single manufacturer and the lack of labeling on genetically modified products is an assault against the rights of the individual and public health. Our government is not protecting its people, but its corporations.

I hope that your involvement in these matters will help move our nation to sustainable, equitable practices in farming and livestock management.

Keli

Keli Bennett Walbert
107 Prairie Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(847) 702-3297
keliwalbert@yahoo.com