

**From:** Burnham, Robyn <[rburnham@umich.edu](mailto:rburnham@umich.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 8:52 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <[agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov](mailto:agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Concerning Monsanto and Agriculture

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

As I see it, Monsanto is the main large industrial seed producer and suppliers in the US. There is no question in my mind that this company has regularly threatened farmers who don't buy its seeds and those who use its seeds to produce new seeds (a life process that farmers are especially well qualified to maintain!).

Our food needs adequate labels regarding the source (local, regional, global) as well as the presence of GMOs and agricultural pesticides. The public will not educate itself unless that education can be put to use on the very labels we read. Don't underestimate the power of people to choose correctly!

While prices are high at the supermarket, farmers are struggling. And yet the big food companies have made large profits this year. I choose to purchase locally at our farmer's market but in Michigan I can hardly ask our farmers to be out in the cold in January selling stored produce!!

Most importantly, our food in the US is grown in ways that are detrimental for the environment, the methods pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security.

To these ends please to not give breaks and preference to the large agribusinesses but put control of the food supply back in the hands of those who consume.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robyn J. Burnham

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