From: Ross Hammersley <ross_hammersley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:18 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.

Monsanto has, for years now, been an unrelenting, monolithic giant within the agricultural world, with well-documented instances of serious harassment of farmers throughout the U.S. and Canada too numerous to count.

Take, for instance, the case of Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser, unjustly brought into court by Monsanto for having the bad fortune to live down-wind of Monsanto-sourced corn.

Without debating the merits of genetically-modified organisms, it is clear that the fact of natural pollen dissemination, especially amongst crops with such profligate dissemination patterns as corn, requires a new way of thinking about intellectual property law and the concept of proprietary "products" in the agricultural field. Someone should not be taken into court by an overzealous company like Monsanto and potentially lose their farm and their family's livelihood simply because pollen from "round-up ready" corn blew over into their field and crossed with their corn.

There are a number of additional reasons why Monsanto's increasing control of our food systems is troubling, and I hope you will give at least as much weight to the stories relayed by average Americans in letters like this as you do to Monsanto's lobbyists.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ross Hammersley

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