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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:26 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 and the strong arm tactics of the big agribusiness, especially Monsanto. Monsanto controls the majority of seeds in the US and regularly threaten farmers that don't buy its seeds. They are especially nasty to organic farmers. Their GMO seeds regularly contaminate organic fields and instead of acknowledging the problem, they file lawsuits against the farmers whose fields were contaminated saying they violated Monsanto's patents! It is Monsanto that is breaking the law, not the farmers! Crack down on Monsanto for contaminating the farmers fields! These farmers are not trying to grow Monsanto's seeds.

It is only in the US that our food is allowed to have GMOs in it and not be labelled as such. Why is our food not labelled and why is GMO allowed when all the major European countries ban GMO? It is because big agribusiness, in the name of their profits and hell be damned who they hurt, is being catered to because the fox is being allowed to guard the hen house. Small, local organic farms are being forced out of business because of the new rules being forced by the FDA and which Monsanto strongly backs. Why are lobbyists from Monsanto allowed to work at the FDA and the Dept of Agriculture! This allows big business to be catered to and the small farmer is stepped upon. One size rules for everybody is not the way to go. Small farmers operate much differently from big agri business and care much more about the environment too.

My husband is deathly allergic to pesticides and I strongly resent the fact that the small, non certified organic farmers that I rely upon for my food are being forced out of business because they can't afford to comply with all the regulations, especially those such as charging 500 to 1000 dollars a year to be licensed! To be agribusiness this fee is a drop in the bucket but to a small farm this adds greatly to the cost of doing business. I like the personal service and attention I get from the small farms where I do business. I certainly don't get that from agribusiness who don't give a damn if they pollute the environment and me all in the name of their greed and trying to control the whole system! I thought that was what the anti trust laws were supposed to do--stop one or 2 companies from controlling a whole industry! Well, do your job and enforce the laws.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

cathy zbuska

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