

From: Jan Garrett <garr6904@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 12:13 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

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

A very few large corporations now own patents to much of our agricultural seed supply. Contrary to what they advertise, research shows that more pesticides are being used since GMOs have become widely adopted. GMO seed contaminates local land races that contain genetic variability and are better adapted to local growing conditions. The large corporations are allowed to prohibit people from saving family heirloom seeds that they have been saving for generations, all because they have inadvertently become contaminated by cross pollination from GMOs.

I ask you to limit the power of the large agribusiness corporations and protect the rights of small farmers in whose hands our post petroleum farming future may very well depend. Corporations are not people and should not have the rights of people. Small farmers, to the contrary, are real people, vote, pay taxes, do not usually receive any government subsidies, and the constitution provides them with certain inalienable rights, which these corporations are infringing upon in the name of profit.

If you do still exercise any authority over these large agribusiness corporations, please work to bring them back under the checks and balances provided in our constitution to limit the power of corporations and protect the rights of individuals.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jan Garrett

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