From: amygrishaber@hotmail.com
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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Who Controls Your Food?

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I am the average American consumer. Just a couple of years ago, I saw a documentary about genetically modified foods. I was horrified to realize that Big Agribusiness had all but completely taken over the food supply AND NO ONE EVEN KNEW. Since then I have educated myself and others about the dangers of GMO's in our food. These Frankenfoods are untested, unlabeled and controlled by big monied interests whose only guiding factor is profit. Monsanto is the worst of them all.

I thank the Justice Department for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

If we do not stand up to Monsanto, we will not have a choice soon about consuming food created in a lab with GMO's. We will be their guinea pigs. Please, please stop the Monsanto takeover of our seeds and our food. Our lives literally depend on it.

Sincerely,

Amy Grishaber