From: roxannamartin@hotmail.com
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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment on Monsanto

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you 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 shocked and dismayed with Monsanto's attempt at control over the seed supply. This encompasses an assault on our most basic rights as human beings - having control over our own food for ourselves and our children.

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. If you think we have a health crisis now, wait until they are done!

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. This is a world food crisis in the making, like none we have ever seen.

Please visit www.wellnessresources.com to read a free copy of "Fight for Your Health" by Byron Richards, a clinical nutritionist who has been trying to inform citizens on how the FDA is not doing its job and the dangers of tampering with our food supply. He coins the term, "the new hunter and gatherer" to characterize how difficult it is for a consumer to find real, organic food.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely yours,

Martin and Roxanne Cocchiarella