

From: Kimberly Gallagher <kg135@hailmail.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 1:12 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

Department of Justice:

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. More than that, I am concerned about the quality of food available to citizens in the United States of America. Right now, I go into a supermarket and see isles and isles of junk that many people put into their bodies thinking they are eating food and nourishing themselves.

Having agribusiness giants like Monsanto in control of our food choices is not only scary and depressing it is downright dangerous to the health of our nation. In his important book, Nutrition and Physical Degeneration, Mr. Weston Price, D.D.S. documented the health benefits of a traditional diet and the health dangers of processed food. Genetic modification of food takes these dangers to a new level. When this book was first published in 1939, Weston Price had already documented alarming aspects of this degeneration. If we allow this to continue, our nation is in danger of losing the ability of its citizens to make good decisions, to care for the place we live, and to endure into the future.

As a mother of two children, I am appalled and disheartened every time I hear that another Monsanto person has been put in a position of power in the government. I care so much about the health my children, and work hard to provide them with quality food to nourish their growing bodies. For me, this means belonging to a local, organic, biodynamic CSA as a source of produce for my family. I also seek out good, local sources of quality meat - buying a portion of an animal from local farmers and keeping meat in the freezer for the year. I drive to a drop point every week to be able to get healthy, local, raw milk for my children. I wildcraft herbs in my area to provide my family with nutrients from wild plants and use these herbs to provide medicine for my family.

I am thankful every day that these options are available to us, and feel very scared that the decisions currently being made in the government will further limit these healthy options. The planting of genetically modified seeds from Monsanto are a threat to us all, potentially leading to a whole range of plants that can no longer reproduce on their own, and contaminating pure, natural food crops with their genetic modifications. Granted, some of these modifications may be an improvement, but so little is known for sure about the effects of these practices. The risks we are taking right now in allowing these seeds to be put in the ground are potentially catastrophic, and definitely impact my freedom to choose to eat natural, organically grown food.

Having these agribusinesses in control also affects small farmers, making it difficult for them to survive and thrive. In my opinion small, local farms producing quality food in environmentally friendly ways, are essential to the survival of our species. This food is essential to human health and methods of food production that contribute to the health of our farms (instead of depleting and destroying the land we farm) is essential to the health of our planet and to food production remaining sustainable for future generations.

My heart is heavy every day because of the choices that are being made about food in this country. I am concerned about the health of my children and the health of all the future generations of children in this country. I see the effects of unhealthy food in the children at my local schools. I see it in the children who can't concentrate on their school work and who can't get along with their peers. I see it in adults who have degenerative diseases, struggle to make good decisions for themselves, their families, and this country.

I am so glad that this issue is being taken into consideration at this time, and encourage you all to make decisions now that will lead to local, organic, free-range, grass-fed, and even biodynamic food being made available to all citizens in the United states now and for generations into the future. The impact of such choices will have immediate and amazing positive effects on the health of our families and the health of our nation.

So thank you so much for the work you are doing right now, and thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gallagher, MEd, CCH

Kimberly Gallagher

