

**From:** orrk001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 1:13 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Please protect our natural food supply!

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December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Most of us know that old saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." As a biologist I can cite numerous examples in which the well-intentioned efforts of humans to improve upon nature have backfired, leaving irreversible and long-term unintended consequences. As a consumer, I am deeply concerned that Monsanto's efforts to control our seed supply are just that - a disaster in the making.

For expediency, I am using a pre-written letter to make several main points, but please know I am not forwarding this letter blindly. To my knowledge the following information is true and very scary:

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.

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.

People rally behind "good intentions," thinking that Monsanto is helping to feed the hungry, yet they don't know the above facts.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine Orr