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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 1:38 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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December 18, 2009

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 particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply and mostly over the health hazards that GM cause and that the Monsanto executives in charge of the FDA are refusing to protect the population from. Please read a recently published study in the International Journal of Biological Sciences
<http://www.biolsci.org/v05p0706.htm>

If we were to connect the dots, and realize that the overconsumption of cheap (tax payer subsidized) GM corn and soy products that are in most processed food, are harming the health of the most vulnerable, and that in the US are the ones who's "health" (obesity/ toxicity/ immune deficiency) care will cost taxpayers the most;

That the practice of mono culture, is not only destroying the lives of subsistence farmers worldwide and causing more hunger rather than, as they claim, to be "helping to feeding the world", but that it is also highly detrimental to the environment of the planet that we are supposed to be saving;

That these overly powerful companies that have deceitfully infiltrated the US government and many governments worldwide, are bound by law to profit, and that their ABSOLUTE POWER HAS CORRUPTED THEM (and the governments) ABSOLUTELY.

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.

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,

Carola Polakov