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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 1:53 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:

Across my family, the effects of the changes in the US's food system are evident. From auto-immune diseases to cancer, the changes in our food system and the effect of "agri-business" farms taking over and spraying unregulated, unlimited amounts of poison into the air and water supply has a far-reaching effect. Changes to my own diet led to a reversal in my own auto-immune condition, which leads me to believe that I can certainly not be an isolated case.

As a part of the bigger picture, allowing these systems to operate freely, and more importantly, allowing companies like Monsanto and others the freedom to patent life forms that the entire human race is reliant upon for sustenance and good health is a decision that I wholeheartedly believe is not in the best interest of not only Americans, but of the entire human race. The government's persistence in preventing labeling of GMO foods and it's allowance of it's regulatory bodies such as the FDA and USDA to be literally run by individuals who have vested interests in the companies they are supposed to be regulating is a breach of trust to the people who are supposed to be protected by these agencies, not to mention a most certain conflict of interest. My husband and myself, being of the means to do so, have left the US due specifically to these issues, among others, which we consider to be a breakdown in the ethical fiber of the nation and the values that Americans have fought for over the last two centuries. I hope you can see that the long-term and far reaching effects of your actions will effect not only the citizens of our nation, but those across the globe. I hope you are strongly compelled by the responses you receive from individuals like myself to take action towards reversing actions that will otherwise be devastating not only to those of us relying on you now, but for generations to come.

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.

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,

Mrs. Holly Frenette-Fenske