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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 2:20 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am deeply concerned about an agribusiness control of world seed genetics and their enforcement of unsustainable agricultural practices.

Agribusiness as usual means that food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food and water security.

Monsanto has given us hormone-ridden milk and toxic-pesticide-dependent genetically engineered seeds. How can it be right/just/fair that they are allowed to "own" plant genetics?

How can it be right that their genetically engineered seeds pollinate where not planted and not wanted, leaving other crops tainted with GE material and the unwitting farmers liable to pay Monsanto for "stealing" their unwanted GE seeds? I do not believe that any corporation should be allowed to "own" species found naturally on this planet. I want to be able to buy and grow plants secure from the threat of contamination from genetically engineered plants.

How can it be right/fair/just to have a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators? This will protect corporate interests and corporate greed but not consumers and our common environment. I do not want any former employee of agribusiness to serve as a government regulator of business and I want not former government regulators to be eligible for hire by anyone in areas formerly under their regulation.

How can it be right/fair/just not to require food producers to label their products with full disclosure about whether it contains genetically engineered ingredients? How can it be right/fair/just not to allow food producers to label their products with accurate information about is not contained? I want to know which products contain genetically engineered ingredients so that I can avoid them altogether and I want to know which products have been specifically produced to be free from genetically engineered substances so that I can buy these only.

Farmers in India who were encouraged to grow GE cotton have had crop failures such that many have committed suicide, leaving grieving families even more impoverished than before.

This is not just a tragedy, it is unjust that corporate gain is achieved by such oppression.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Leslie Tawnamaia

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