

From: Marcia Bicknell <marci_bicknell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 2:29 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Taking ACTION!

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. This concerns me and how I've been affected by corporate consolidation in the food industry. Please consider:

? Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

? What's in our food, anyway? And why aren't there decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified?

? There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

? Prices are rising at the supermarket, but you've heard that farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year.

? 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 security.

. America's debt crisis may be solved by agriculture, and one company should NOT control this solution.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marcia Bicknell