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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 Iowan who lives in the middle of the agribusiness I worry about the "round up ready" run off going into my water supply from the GMO fields I live near. 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.

I cannot conceive of any world in which this is truly possible! How can a company own the seeds and not allow their use? The only possible motive for such an action is a plan to have a monopoly of the food supply!

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.

We don't even know what is going to happen in the future with this genetic manipulation. This is NOT equivalent to hybridization. This is gene

swapping. How will people with food allergies really know if there are peanut genes in their corn flakes if this is allowed?? And all the promises of safety of GMO foods means nothing. We all know that these corporations will say and do anything to fatten their bottomlines - remember DDT??

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.

Someone needs to put a stop to this manipulation of our food supply - will you be the ones to do it? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kathy