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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 3:08 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Agriculture and Antitrust . . .

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the work that you do and for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues."

As an 35 year organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply and experimentation with the future of the human race. I know this sounds a bit extreme. I am not. I am a successful business owner and father of 3 adult sons.

I simply ask you to familiarize yourself with (among other possible problems) the "Terminal gene" that has been proven to jump from their plants to others . . . and think about the potential repercussions.

I'm sure you are aware that Monsanto is buying seed companies and aggressively PATENTING LIFE ! What exactly CAN THAT MEAN ? Please think about that. These plants are given to the earth and to man and to all life. Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive and dangerous behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will, stifle competition and destroy lives that are already difficult enough.

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 of keeping seeds, the very foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

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