

**From:** marydouglas76@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 3:13 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** BigAg food monopoly must be stopped.

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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 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. It is never a good idea to allow one corporation or this type of business to be in control of our seed and food supply. Our government has been unwisely allowing Genetically Modified seed companies to monopolize the market, subsidizing these companies and completely ignoring the proven detrimental environmental and human health consequences that their products guarantee. Not only are these unnatural seeds harmful for human and animal consumption, they are killing our environment thru eliminating Biodiversity, contaminating groundwater with toxic chemicals, and destroying soil fertility and productivity, endangering if not eventually eliminating pollinizers, contaminating Non-GM crops through wind pollination. All of which is horrible for people, animals, environment, pocketbooks, is almost an assurance that there will be a widespread famine if even one thing goes wrong: what if, for some reason, they were to not be able to deliver our food to us, where would we get food if for some reason they were not able to create seeds anymore. This is a very dangerous situation. Extremely unwise and very unnecessary. Traditional knowledge is the best way, and the most inexpensive way to feed this nation. We, as a nation almost waste as much food as we consume, if a sensible, local food economy were put into place, with NO government subsidies for mass production which is harmful for people and the environment, and ALL subsidies going to SMALL LOCAL FAMILY farmers who work hard to nourish their communities and who are rewarded for being responsible Stewards of their Land. AND Absolutely NO MORE TAX PAYER MONEY for HUGE Bloated MULTINATIONAL corporations who are soulless entities who's only goal is to control the "food" supply with their nonfood substances. That is evil and morally bankrupt. It is also EVIL and Morally bankrupt that for 15 years or so these seeds have been in our food supply, but American's have not been given the right to know what is

in their food with proper labeling and markings on the packaging of these unhealthy foods. Yet, in those same years, an Obesity Epidemic has exploded in this country, and not one of our government agencies or branches of government have come out to offer some truth and protections for us. These seeds should NOT be Eaten or grown because the consequences are too high, and the dangers and costs too great. It is unacceptable, and I hope these words are not falling on deaf ears.

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,

Mary Douglas