

From: Donna Kirik <faithbooks@windstream.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 6:25 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. It appears that there are only a few companies controlling the majority of the market. One company in particular, Monsanto, certainly appears to fit the definition on a monopoly. My grandparents grew up on farms in Indiana and I have watched the decline of their land and the surrounding farms. I have seen the effects of soy coming in.

I have one child who has many allergies, food and environment. Labels are not standardized. There are many indiscretions with the wording and what is included. This makes it very difficult to shop and purchase safe food. It is near impossible to dine out. I attempt to use less pre-packaged food. However, even our fruits, vegetables and grains are sprayed with chemicals and go through processes that can be harmful to those with sensitivities. There is no way to know what all is going into my son's body or any of ours without disclosure of the chemicals and processes used.

I have many concerns regarding food, how it is grown and processed, the control big companies have over small farmers and consumers, and how consumers are "kept in the dark" over the food they are buying.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Donna Kirik

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