From: cschudda@verizon.net
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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 organic gardener and 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.

My bigger concern, though, 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. These GMO foods are proven by independent studies to be unhealthy--not only are they less nutritious, but they are far more likely to cause allergic reactions.

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.

We should protect plant species from exctinction the same way we protect animal species. The the tens of thousands of food plant varieties especially need protection from companies like Monsanto that are consciously exterminatiing them.

I urge you to include in your investigation a consideration of the

importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, in the public domain where they truly belong. I do not believe it is exaggerating to say humankind's future may depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Carrie Santulli Schudda
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