From: Stephen Shepherd <stephenshep@wog.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 8:38 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.

Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

What's in our food, anyway? And why aren't there decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified?

There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

Prices are rising at the supermarket, but you've heard that farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year.

Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Stephen Shepherd

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