

From: ezimmerman@buffalo.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:58 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: The corruption of our government by those previously employed by Monsanto is absolutely unacceptable. Our constitutional rights forbid the patents of any living organism and now those who have patented life are starting to control it.

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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 as it is grossly anti-constitutional and goes against everything that I believe. YOU CAN NOT PUT A PATENT ON LIFE!!! Manipulated or not, this is ILLEGAL!!!!

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.

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. This goes against everything I believe in and it must stop. You could start by heading those departments in charge with normal everyday people rather than taking insiders from the companies that are corrupting our food supply. Take a long hard look at who holds what positions and then look at their employment history. Money isn't everything, capitalism has its perks, but

this is absolutely disgusting. The health care system and it's expenses could be brought dramatically down if someone would just pay attention to what you are doing here with our food supply. These foods are NOT fit for human consumption and yet they are grown and fed to the general population that can not afford to buy organic or even begin to understand what the effects of these foods are on the human body. Why is there a weight problem in our country? Someone needs to wake up and get a clue here. The overall effects of this monopoly on our environment and its people is swept under the carpet constantly. Those agencies responsible for the people of this nation need to be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I vote with my money every week by buying those foods that are good for my family and I would rather starve than eat what is on 80% of our grocers shelves. This is probably going to fall on deaf ears as most other things that people truly care about and try to communicate with our government officials about, but I just want to put my opinion out there. I beg of you to actually DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!! PLEASE!

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,

Eric Zimmerman
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