From: bigheel360@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 11:08 PM
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:

Monsanto is monopolizing life itself. How many patents have been given for genes that make up a person. Is that next? They have a plan to let their GMO seeds spread with the wind so they can charge the farmer next door next year. There should be no way to patent genes or life at all. All it is leading to is Monsanto OWNING the DNA to all the food on earth. The only thing left to do is to spread their suicide seeds so we can only get seeds by ordering them from Monsanto. I promise that If the justice dept does not act now the genetic diversity of plants that are protecting us from mass plant disease spreading will be eliminated and replaced with a Monsanto monocrop. It is nothing less than slavery through food patents. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and wish you luck taking on such a behemoth of a corporation.

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.

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,

Michael Duhl
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