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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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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 and farmer, I am concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. Seeds are the future of U.S. agriculture during the global warming crisis. Have you ever grown any of your own food? Consider the deep disconnect between capitalism as practiced by Monsanto and organic farming.

By buying seed companies and patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. Monsanto is an example of capitalism run amok. The anticompetitive behavior displayed by this immoral company has skewed markets and subjected farmers and consumers to its power.

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 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 altered seeds 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.

When offered a choice, farm animals offered products harvested from Monsanto altered seeds or products from unaltered seeds, choose the unaltered. They recognize a source of sickness. We have apparently lost that ability.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds available and in the public domain where they truly belong. Seeds are the birthright of our grandchildren.

Sincerely,

C. Purrington