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Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 2:18 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Genetic Engineering & Agriculture - Protection of Organics & the Environment

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December 19, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I want to thank you for soliciting public input prior to the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

I am an organic gardening enthusiast, and I purchase all organic products. I believe that organic food production is the healthy and harmonious way to grow food, and that it is the answer to sustainable food for our planet. Heirloom seeds have evolved over thousands of years, and nature has modified itself to adapt to different environmental conditions. I don't believe that science can do a better job than nature.

I am very concerned that Monsanto's efforts to massively introduce GMOs and control the seed supply could have a severely damaging impact to organic farming and future seed production. Because transgenic GMOs spread uncontrollably, they can contaminate neighboring fields for miles. Organic farms, as well as backyard gardens, are useless if contaminated, and the seeds from these crops cannot be harvested and saved. We could lose our seed heritage and we may not have the ability to recover. A mono-culture of Bt and RR seed, or worse, pharmaceuticals and "plastics" crops, will not help to keep our economy strong or to feed our nation.

I agree that 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. Why would we allow them to buy up seeds that they subsequently remove from our food chain? We have enough extinction happening on the planet, without a corporation taking food plants and making them go extinct for us.

And I also agree that 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 "Terminator" technology should be completely prohibited immediately.

I honestly lay awake at night, worrying that we will not be able to recover from the introduction of GMOs into the environment. We need to preserve and protect plants and food varieties - and we need our government to stop companies like Monsanto from consciously eliminating them.

I hope that your investigation will protect us from this looming danger, and provide safety for our traditional and organic farming practices. Please consider the importance of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, as a God-given right. We need to preserve our ability to use the seeds and grow the food that we know has maintained our human existence for thousands of years.

Thank you again for asking for our public comments. I hope they are valuable and meaningful to you in your investigations.

Sincerely,

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