

From: crocodilemoth@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 2:53 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Concerning Monsanto's Monopoly

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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 a mom and concerned citizen, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply and their inexcusable actions in their attempts to complete their monopoly.

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 Genetically Modified Aberrations 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 is coupled with the company's aggressive 'patent suits' against small farmers (and sometimes those who do not even have farms) who they accuse of 'patent infringement.' Using underhanded, sometimes illegal actions to 'prove' that the farmer is growing their seeds... even if it is due to the above mentioned cross-contamination.

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 of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

In addition, possibly making it harder for those who have been on the boards of these major companies that have major stock in government policies (especially but not limited to food safety and health) to have high positions in government offices. (Maybe a 10 year period between employment in these major companies and employment in government?) Having people in high positions that 'owe' or represent major companies is like giving ownership of the country to said companies.

Sincerely,

Carla Aoyagi