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

Richard Watson
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December 19, 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. I don't knowingly have a "story" of the company's harm done to me personally, but I have followed the "progress" of this greedy, polluting, unjust, thieving, immoral corporation for several years. I am beside myself at what they have been allowed to get away with "legally" -- to say nothing of their more hidden side effects on world populations! And where is our government protecting us???? HERE is where we need the help of truly concerned and sympathetic leaders, and where are they? . . . tied up with political arguing and stalling tactics funded by corporations such as Monsanto. The future of huge numbers of people depend on you NOW to reduce -- hopefully eliminate -- threats such as Monsanto and its governmental cohorts like Rajuv Shaw and Islam Siddiqui exemplify, and even the Gates Foundation! Help the world, shorten the leash on these people!!!

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,

Dr. Richard Watson