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

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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 and a grandmother-to-be, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

No institution, be it a company like Monsanto or a nation -- no single group of people -- should EVER be allowed to have this much control over the world's food supply. We are ultimately allowing Monsanto an amount of power that no empire or government or dictatorship has ever had.

This is crazy. The time to stop it is NOW.

We need seed diversity to allow us protection against nature's yet unknown pests or plant diseases that can strike monocultures at any time. For example, pineapple seeds from Brazil allowed Hawaii to replenish its dead pineapple fields. We also need diversity of ownership of these seeds, to allow us protection against Lord Acton's description of human nature, "absolute power corrupts absolutely."

I urge you to please include in your investigation an in-depth consideration of the importance keeping seeds in the marketplace -- in the public domain, where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Lena Rotenberg