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**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2009 8:18 PM  
**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."

I purchase organically grown foods as much as possible. The fact that organic food sections in my local chain supermarkets is growing all the time, I am convinced that a very large number of people are adopting this habit as well.

Monsanto's agriculture methods are completely at odds with the principles of organic farming. In an openly competitive market this would be of little concern, but Monsanto's practice of engineering seeds so that they will only grow properly if treated with Monsanto's chemical products ensures that millions of tons of toxic chemicals will continue to saturate our soil and water, regardless of the wishes of the American consumer.

Add to this their owning patents on a great majority of the world's seeds and you can see how we, the public, are inexorably being dragged into a future world of chemically-produced food, with no opportunity to exercise choice.

In addition, their practice of using all their financial resources to sue small farmers who are unlucky enough to have their independent crops inadvertently contaminated by cross-breeding with Monsanto varieties, thereby forcing small farmers off the land in growing numbers.

The sum of Monsanto's business practices are leading American agriculture into a monopolistic trap, where one or maybe two corporations will decide what foods are available to the American public, and of course have the ability to set prices non-competitively as they wish.

I ask that you keep all these factors in mind as you conduct your investigation into U. S. agriculture.

Sincerely,

Julius Gordon