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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, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

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. We have already seen the effect of this technology on the farmers in India who switched from their sustainable traditional farming to these terminator seeds and chemically dependent techniques which were not affordable. Mass suicides by these farmers occurred, and this has happened in other locations.

In my opinion, these efforts to manipulate, control and pollute our food supply are truly monstrously evil and depraved. The same goes for those greedy corporations who seek to pirate our water supplies and other resources that are basic to survival. How are these corporations and

thier CEO's any different than the worst kind of organized criminals?
They most certainly deserve investigations and prosecutions as appropriate for seeking to appropriate and control our global food supplies to the detriment of life on earth. One can only wonder if these corporations are inhabited by humans at all - or some kind of greedy all-consuming souless insects from elsewhere.

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,

Sara Ross