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

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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."

I have excellent health because I eat fruits, vegetables, fowl and fish. I do not eat foods filled with sugar, preservatives, gimmicky chemicals -- such as a type of wheat that is tasty but doesn't satisfy one's hunger. I avoid pesticides, contaminated ground water, dyes, carbonation, and chemical additives in the food I eat.

As a consumer of organic and natural foods, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. Healthy, eatable plants have developed over millions of years to support life on Earth.

And now Monsanto is trying to force all Americans to eat the products of their seeds through a 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.

Monsanto is manufacturing Genetically Modified Organisms, of which we have no clue as to how they will affect our bodies and our health. And I would like to read Monsanto's testing results on their seeds ability to support life on a longterm basis in a healthy way. I object to Monsanto's seeds:

- (1) in reality I believe Monsanto either doesn't know the effect these seeds will have on humans or they aren't telling.
- (2) these GMO products are going to be tested on Americans without their knowing it.
- (3) Americans have freedom of choice--including in what foods they choose to eat. This freedom of choice is the American way. Giving Monsanto a monopoly takes away our free choice. It takes away a farmers free choice of whether to grow food naturally or use the GMO Monsanto product.

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,

Terry Ellen Robinson