

**From:** Theresa Pileggi <tproud@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 7:24 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

---

Pesticide Action Network informed me that the Department of Justice is seeking comments and stories about how corporate control affects average people.

For me, increasing control by corporations has made it hard for me to ACCESS and IDENTIFY the food I choose to feed my family. For health and environmental reasons, I prefer for our food to be whole, additive-, preservative-, and pesticide-free, and locally and sustainably grown.

Because of the power and influence of Monsanto and other corporate giants, small farms struggle to compete. Grocery stores and even our local farmers market are forced to choose price-competitive mass-produced food in order to survive. Even when I can get offerings from small farms, the prices are exorbitant. (I've never minded paying a little more, but the greater influence by corporations has widened and widened the price gap.)

Increasing power and influence by the corporate giants have also diminished the integrity of consumer protection standards. In the 1990's we fought for our right to information about how our food was grown and processed, and for a short while the labeling standards protected our consumer rights. Now, however, the corporate presence on the regulatory boards has removed the checks and balances and, as I've heard it described, has left the fox guarding the henhouse.

I try not to be an idealist when it comes to government, but I did hope that things would be different under this administration. I hoped that the health and rights of consumers, the qualitative value of small farms, and the environmental necessity of sustainable agriculture would begin to hold some weight against the mass power and influence of the revenue-driven corporate giants. Yes, the country does well if business does well, but the government can ensure that business is done fairly and responsibly, and with the utmost consideration of the health of its people and our environment.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Theresa Pileggi

, 19806