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Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 11:07 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
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Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a concerned consumer, wife, mother, grandmother with a strong interest in food quality and in promoting good eating habits among young people. I have long been concerned with large, industrial food production methods as I believe those methods are stripping food of its innate nutritional value, are causing long-term harm to farmland, and are causing health issues, especially among the farm workers in direct contact with pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

I am especially concerned about companies such as Monsanto, who develop and promote bio-technology that forces farmers to be dependent on the company for seed and the chemicals needed to grow the seed, and who use every tactic they can think of to suppress farmers who oppose their technology. They are setting in motion a vicious monopoly. What is to stop them from raising prices at will, from favoring certain farmers or areas over others, and from withholding products when an entire country has signed on to their propaganda, believing it will save their people from hunger and allow export to further the economy of that country? (Plenty of studies dispute the claims of bio-crop promoters.) When they are allowed to sue a farmer who does not use their products because his crop was *contaminated* by his neighbor who does use Monsanto products, the cards are all stacked in their favor. When they are allowed to influence the FDA into forcing dairymen to add a footnote to products where the dairy wants to inform consumers their products do not come from rbST treated cows, their influence is way too strong.

Thank you for giving concerned citizens a chance to speak on this topic.

Thank you,

Patricia Mayer

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