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

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December 20, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

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.

Monsanto claims to be more efficient, but it's really promoting unsustainable farming that requires nitrogen fertilizer which runs off into the water supply. These corporate farms tend to plant in monocultures which have less natural resistance to bugs and disease. So, Monsanto sells them pesticides to spray on our foods.

It was monocultures and lack of biodiversity in our food supply that led to the dust bowl. The threat of a blight or crop disease is more potent than ever. This looming threat on america's safety and economy has gone completely unnoticed.

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,

Brian Magurn