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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:

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 GMO variety seeds 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 appear to be bent on eliminating them, and there by limiting our access to them.

Seeds are the cultural heritage of humanity, as ought to be clean air, and clean water. It is time to limit corporate gamesmanship with that on which our very lives depend.

Early in the history of our nation, corporations were allowed only in special circumstances and for specific purposes, and by special permits. I do not know when those limitations were lifted. Early in the 20th century, corporations were allowed "standing" in courts. It is preposterous to look at the changes in our economy, our way of life, in the ways the existence of corporations has changed us, and see that as supporting or perpetuating the rights of people to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Corporations serve corporate interests, not human interests. Corporations are inanimate and immortal, and exist to make a profit. Currently, we are witnessing a system where in every aspect of human existence is being colonized by corporate interests, and in our confusion, we are seeing it as "democracy" and "capitalism", which it is neither.

Please be thorough in your consideration of the broad impacts of monsanto's actions, as you consider this issue. The corporation has not been honest, has not behaved in support of the quality of human life, which IS the standard delineated in the constitution.

Our experiment with corporatocracy has gone far enough. The amassing of wealth by the multinational corporations has given them too much influence, and too much leverage, which they continue to wield against humanity.

Sincerely,

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