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

I am writing because I am concerned about the safety of what we eat. The lists of what we should buy organic put out by reputable organizations like Consumers Union seem to grow longer each year. Organic food is expensive. It is hard for us to afford, and harder still for our grown children with young families to buy, therefore we purchase it very seldom. Are we poisoning our families? Can the huge increase in autism be due to something we are doing to our food?

I am concerned too about genetically modified food. I understand that European countries do not welcome its entry into the market. Here in the States, we don't even know what is modified and what isn't. While we are asleep, I read that the huge percentage of the soy crop is genetically modified, and soy ends up in a great many of our processed foods. That's just one example.

Why do starving countries in Africa refuse relief corn shipments from America? That's SCARY!.

Some crops are raised now to be impervious to pesticides, but when pesticide applications are needed, they must be much stronger. Now we are growing pesticide-resistant bugs and poisoning the ground as well. I read that half of the Gulf of Mexico is a dead zone in the summer now, due to our agricultural run-off. Why is no one screaming about that? We are poisoning fish, we must be poisoning the world's oceans.

I think we just learned from the financial near-collapse that every industry needs oversight. When profit is the main motive, the welfare of the public is no longer a priority.

This leads to the much bigger issue of the public's loss of faith that the government is looking after our interests due to the influence of big money on politics. I beg you to enforce existing regulations on the food industry and create new regulations to deal with all the new techniques by which food is raised.

When the First Lady finds it important to raise an organic garden on White House property, doesn't that tell us something?

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