

From: aware@hargray.com
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 6:13 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Patricia H. Friedman
47 Richland Drive
Bluffton,, SC 29910-4834

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 clearly an anti-competitive behavior.

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.

Monsanto's preferred "Frankenseeds" can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence. They can even be infected with "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile. This is 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 the importance of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, in the public domain where it belongs to benefit mankind not Monsanto's bottom line.

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Friedman