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

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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 and a member of a CSA farm, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life (how can that be legal?), Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that disrupts markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will. No one company should have so much control.

Monsanto now owns a variety of seed genetics, but they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

Farmers have cultivated and improved numerous crops over the last 10,000 years. No company should be able to limit food varieties to only a few genetically modified crops, that depend on their pesticides exclusively. Remember the Irish potato famine--and what happened when so many people were dependent on one crop?

The worst 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,

Christine Erb