

From: locamotion429@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 11:38 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Trudie Diamond
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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 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. Monsanto has LONG BEEN a nightmare, the WORST example of corporate greed,

sacrificing OUR WELLBEING and causing so much environmental damage and manufacturing products LONG KNOWN to cause great harm, Bovine growth hormone, Agent Orange & many other illnesses, some fatal resulting from their products. They indiscriminately sue farmers, ranchers, etc in attempts to monopolize the agricultural industry. They are powerful lobbyists, contributing generously to political campaigns. Many of the Bush Administration officials were previously employed by Monsanto and still hold office. Transparency was a promise made by our President & although I voted for him, trust him and feel he's doing a great job, I want this promise to become STANDARD. This should 't even be an issue, politicians & Gov't officials work for US and must put our best interests first, as well as protecting the environment.

This reign of terror perpetrated by Monsanto has got to stop NOW. Please do everything in your power to restore our faith in our government and judicial system by protecting us all & the environment from Monsanto. Thank you, Trudie Diamond

Sincerely,

Trudie Diamond
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