From: deirdre444@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 4:33 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Deirdre Braddock
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December 21, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Hello.
In addition to what you have been reading over and over in the form letter below, the simple fact is that I don't want to eat food that has been genetically modified, sprayed with chemicals, etc. I think it's wrong, I don't trust frankenstein-like foods and it tears me up to think of all the farmers that Monsanto is/has been terrorizing with their patent infringement litigational tactics. I eat only organic raw food and have been doing so for nearly 25 years. I will continue to do so as long as there is natural, healthy food (fruit, vegetables, nuts, etc.) available. As a natural human being born to a natural earth, I have a right to that kind of food. Monsanto threatens that, and all for the sake of profit and corporate greed. Not all corporations have a greedy bottom line but Monsanto has stepped over the line. Please investigate and stop this monstrous manipulation of mother nature. If you don't the consequences could be dire. Thanks for reading.

Deirdre Braddock

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.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Braddock
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