

**From:** Kathryn Young <kathrynyo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2009 11:05 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Monsanto's monopoly

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I am a concerned citizen and consumer, living in a small town and trying to find food that I can trust—not tainted, not genetically engineered, and not trucked for many thousands of miles to reach me. I try to live according to my values and support my neighbors in any way I can.

Global mega-corporations like Monsanto make this difficult. They have far too much control over seed production and actually own far too much farmland for the agricultural market to operate freely, with real competition. Monsanto can do pretty much whatever they want, and we are at their mercy. It is very hard on the small farmers in this area, who have to seek out niche markets because they can't compete with products from third-world countries, where labor costs are low. Besides, we are just beginning to understand the important of biodiversity, of protecting as large a gene pool as we can. Monsanto's genetic engineering and monoculture methods are driving lots of crop species into extinction. Farmers cannot even save seeds from year to year now, but have to buy new seeds every year from—you guessed it—Monsanto.

If this doesn't constitute a dangerous monopoly, I don't know what does. This affects every citizen, as we all have to eat. Please, please initiate anti-trust action against Monsanto. They should be forced to break up into several smaller companies, so we have true competition and they don't have so much clout to call all the shots about where our food comes from.

Thank you for listening.

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*Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.*  
~Washington Irving