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Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 3:03 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

What has happened to our antitrust laws in this country? It is bad enough that our media, phone, and cable companies have become monopolized conglomerates, but to allow a single company to control a vast majority of our food supply is unconscionable. The bully-type tactics Monsanto employs to force farmers to purchase its seeds for crops is out of line and should not be allowed.

We need more competition in the seed industry, with zero GMO seeds as well. We are what we eat, and I certainly do not like the thought of consuming any food that contains pesticides, herbicides, polymers, genetically mutated materials, or anything else injected into our food by humans, in order to mass produce food.

The best thing we can do for our food supply is to move back toward smaller, local, organic farming practices that would vastly improve our food quality, reduce pollution by minimizing or eliminating the use of chemicals, and reduce pollution by shortening transportation distances.

Being dependent on large, massive farms puts our population at risk for a food shortage much more than relying on smaller local farms. We've already seen what can happen when there's a food contamination issue at one of these giant farms - supply dries up, costs increase on the supply that is available, and replacing the supply is a challenge.

It is fair competition that helped build this country, and it has all but disappeared in many areas. However, our food supply is critical to survival, and we cannot allow one company, especially one such as Monsanto, to have dominant control over the seed supply.

Please do what you can to broaden competition in the seed industry. It will help local economies by giving small farmers the opportunity to select seeds that work best for their area and soils, and it will help consumers (including you) by providing a fresher, higher quality, non-GMO or chemically altered food supply.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adriana Guastavino

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