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

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December 21, 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 a Human being on planet Earth, I am angry and apauled about Monsanto's domination and control of the seed supply of this planet and their tyrannical attempt by the use of huge corporate dollars to force farmers to buy their products or go out of business .

By purchasing 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. In addition through the use of fear and legal parrying, Monsanto has positioned themselves to control and squeeze worldmarkets to a point which could make them the sole proprietor of seeds to the world with no competition or checks against quality or pricing.

When that happens to the world, what do you expect will happen to the world food supplies if and when Monsanto goes out of business???

Imagine the dilemma which would be caused by the single purveyor of seeds to the world shutting its doors and going out of business due to unchecked and uncontrolled market manipulation and greed?? Does the US have enough funds at our disposal to buy out Monsanto like we did to Wall Street and GM? If we dont, imagine what the world will be like when every known agricultural product becomes unavailable and all the crops have died off due to terminatory genes?

Another huge 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.

Another devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their seeds 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 of keeping seeds which are the foundation of human life, in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Keith Stewart