

**From:** mail@forthe loveoflife.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2009 1:33 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** the freedom to grow food

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Thomas Teuwen  
313 Westcott Drive  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250-8110

December 22, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

How wonderful that you are holding workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy." We voted for change and are thrilled that it is happening.

You need to connect with the folks at Lilly Films that made the documentary, "The Future of Food". The process of patenting seeds and hybridizing them to create a market monopoly has gotten way out of hand. <http://www.forthe loveoflife.net/ideas/futureoffood.htm>

As a consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. It is an insidious market control strategy that places full control of our food supply in the hands of a few corporations who are protected by patent laws.

The freedom to grow our own food has been thwarted as a result. There are many documentaries on the subject. I suggest you ask Michael Pollen, the author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and John Robins, the author of the Food Revolution to testify. These individuals have done a lot of research and have lots of contacts that can give you the real story.

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, in the public domain where they truly belong.

I have been passionate about this issue for a long time as you can see on my web site. <http://www.fortheloveoflife.net/portal/portal061009.htm> I used to be a farmer and know the importance of being able to keep your own seeds from year to year.

How exciting that you are finally investigating this threat to our food security.

Sincerely,

Thomas Teuwen  
3603705352