

From: embryg@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 11:03 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Monsanto Terrifies Me - Please Stop Them

Gina Embry
126 Marauder Ct
Murfreesboro, TN 37127-6930

December 22, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As an organic consumer, I am extraordinarily concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. By buying seed companies, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that controls 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 number of food crops that farmers have cultivated 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 concerning action of Monsanto is that their seeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence 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,

Gina Embry