

From: Natasha Seegert <natashaseegert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 12:43 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

Hello,

I am a resident of Salt Lake City, UT where I not only have my own garden, but I also try to support the local farmers in the area. The reason I do this is because it not only supports my local economy - I am not providing agri-corporations with my hard-earned money - it is also good for the planet because it reduces my carbon footprint for food.

I am concerned about the monopolies established by large corporations. The family farm that my grandparents ran is fading into history and in this case the progression forward is not positive. Not only are individual family farms driven into debt and out of business, the quality and safety of our food is threatened (consider, for example, outbreaks of e-coli and salmonella). In addition, this is bad for the environment as the scale of corporate agriculture requires the use of more and more chemicals which are harmful not only to our health, but also to our groundwater.

Please address the problems of corporate agriculture and return the security of our food system back to local farmers. It is not only sound economically and environmentally, it is also better for our national security to not have control of our food production in the hands of a small number of monopolies.

Thank you for allowing public comments on this issue,
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