

From: Bruce Dobson <hosho@whidbey.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 1:42 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

I am a landowner, small business person, and organic food consumer in Washington state. I have watched for decades as our nation's small farms have disappeared, to be replaced by huge factory farms. This trend must, I believe, be reversed, in favor of small, community-oriented organic farms. This would improve the safety and nutrition of our food, reverse the harm that current industrial farming practices are causing the earth and all species, and make our food supply more robust as we deal with global climate change and political struggle. Critical to small and local farming is easy and affordable access to markets, and the current system of large corporate control of marketing and processing works against the small farmers. One resource that I'd urge you to consult is an organization call Food First.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern on this matter. I look forward to following this investigation in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Bruce Dobson