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

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December 22, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

They purchase seed companies and aggressively patent and control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that affects markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will. Also, Monsanto is making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

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 making only a few varieties of pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops. Monsanto's business 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 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.

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,

Marie Wheatley

