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Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 2:33 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject:

Greetings,

I am sending you my comments regarding big agribusiness's effect on the food supply. I will number them.

1. The most significant effect is the monopoly that these few corporations have in terms of dictating what our food supply looks like. For instance in the area of genetically modified crops they are given full reign to use them when many of us do not want to eat food that contains those substances and they don't have to be labelled.
2. Our food supply is almost completely tainted with processed and chemically treated food substances. One has to look far and wide to find whole, unadulterated food to eat and that whole food then becomes more expensive.
3. The science about food is influenced by the food corporations so that we don't get good information about our food supply. These special interests influence what studies are done and what their outcomes are.
4. Small farmers are going out of business constantly because they can't compete with the cheap prices of corporate food.
5. Organic produce is being threatened by corporate lobbying efforts plus genetically modified crops are contaminating organic crops and then those small farmers are being slapped with law suits because their crops contain the seeds from the GMO'ed crops.
6. The corporate food giants are limiting the abundance of crops being grown which is shrinking our long time diversity of heritage crops and livestock.
7. The corporate food industry is responsible for large dumping of toxic wastes into the ground, water and air. Tons of pesticides are running off and polluting our natural resources.
8. The processed food that is the result of these corporations is responsible for the dwindling health of Americans in the form of alarming rates of cancer, obesity, diabetes and heart disease in our country.
9. Factory farming is a blight on our health, environment and our morals. Eating products from animals that have been fed a toxic diet that is not natural to them that is full of hormones and chemicals is causing illness in our population. It is also a huge environmental polluter and extremely cruel to the animals.

Need I say more? The state of our corporate food system is killing us and the environment. Please see all of Michael Pollan's books for authoritative research on these facts. Also watch documentaries like Food, Inc, The World According to Monsanto, etc. for more information on these facts regarding the corporate food industry.

I am in training as a whole foods educator and I know from my own personal experience that what we eat is the single most important factor of our health. We need to support the local production of whole, organic foods which emphasize fruits and vegetables and animal products free of hormones and chemicals that are able to live their natural lives and eat their natural diets. Food is part of the planet's life cycle and if we mess with it as we have done, we and the earth will suffer, as we are.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter,

Lynn Kerman

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