

**From:** Susan Roberts <susan@susan-roberts.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2009 3:57 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on corporate concentration  
**Attach:** Comments to USDOJ.doc

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Thank you for considering my comments which are attached and also embedded in my e-mail.

To: US Department of Justice

From: Susan Roberts, JD, MS, RD

Re: Comments on Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our food system and how antitrust enforcement (or lack of it) is affecting our food supply. I am a food and nutrition professional with degrees also in preventive medicine and law. I am also a parent, grandparent, and small farmer who grows most of my own food.

I am very concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. For this reason, I try to grow most of my own food. I also work on food system policy professionally to try and change the unhealthy food system we currently have in the US to a healthier one.

Our food system is critical to human health issues, climate issues, energy issues, and water issues. It is imperative as a nation that we take action to use our food system to mitigate these catastrophic issues instead of being a cause. I believe that corporate control of the food and agriculture sector has been a negative influence in all of these problems.

For example, growing healthy food is of paramount importance, but is becoming harder and harder for food producers when a few companies control the seed (and much of that seed is genetically engineered and not proven safe).

Corporate control of animal husbandry has also harmed our food supply. Confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) require use of human antibiotics which has led to antibiotic resistant bacteria that are now hurting humans. The use of hormones, such as rBST, by large corporate farms has health harming implications.

The control of food processing by large corporations has not improved food safety but has made it worse as outbreaks of bacterial contamination, such as E. coli, are happening at unprecedented rates in unprecedented volumes of food.

The economy and a healthy food system in the US needs more farmers, not fewer. Corporate consolidation and power has pushed small farmers out of business. A diversified agricultural community is what our nation was built on and what we should strive to support in the future.

Thank you for looking into the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. Thank you also for the opportunity to submit comments.

**Susan L Roberts, JD, MS, RD**  
8830 NW 35th Street  
Ankeny, IA 50023

515.965.3859

515.480.5898 (c)