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My name is Sharon Leopardi, and I am a young food consumer and urban farmer in Utah. I am really concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and farming sector in the United States. I feel that the action of patenting seeds which is really the patenting of living beings that is being done by corporate agriculture giants like Monsanto is morally wrong. It has led to increased control of seeds and food by corporate, for profit entities and less control over agriculture by individual farmers. I believe that the lawsuits against farmers for having small amounts of genetically modified plants patented by Monsanto in their fields because of cross pollination also to be unjust and wrong. I believe that giving lots of power to corporate entities whose decisions are based on profit instead of the well being of communities and people is also wrong and unjust. Companies should be here to serve people, not for people to serve them, and I believe giving power to corporations whose goals are not to serve people, but to serve their bottom line, to be wrong.

In the face of mounting global environmental issues such as global climate change and Peak Oil, humanity needs to relocalize and decentralize its food system in order to survive the coming environmental and economic changes facing us. I believe large, global, corporate control of the food system is not sustainable. Therefore I would support government action to weaken the tighthold corporations have on our food system.

As a small scale urban farmer, corporate agriculture is making it harder for me to be able to sell vegetables at a fair price, because grocery store vegetables are artificially too low because of large scale, unsustainable production. In order to have more people become small scale farmers, which I believe will be part of the solution towards tightening food security, there needs to be less control and competition from conventional agriculture. There also needs to be subsidies and support systems from the government for small scale food producers just like there are for big scale producers now.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my comments!

Sharon Leopardi  
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