

From: princa@peoplepc.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 7:13 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Concerned Consumer

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December 22, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of 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.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of 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 bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their 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 literal 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.

I urge you to 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.

I am a health conscious 42 old male and am just now learning of the horrors posed by "genetically modified" food crops and have done some research into the Monsanto corporation. Now, I am just scared. Please regard any and all correspondence from concerned/scared Americans with the highest priority. My 8 year old son just finished 2 years of cancer treatment for a tumor in his brain. The cause of the malignant tumor cannot be explained. Because of this My wife and I are always seeking out new information on healthy living and have determined that eating properly (i.e. eating foods that are organically grown) is the number one solution to America's seemingly endless list of debilitating and death causing diseases.

My family has been buying more and more products bearing the "certified organic" label and will continue to do so. However, we cannot eat properly if companies like Monsanto are providing us nothing but genetically engineered foods from which to choose nor can we survive with companies like Monsanto producing the poisonous chemicals with which our bodies have to deal (i.e. Anniston, AR). Genetically engineered foods have never existed in nature and therefore our bodies cannot process them without some ill effects.

Please take this letter from me as if it were the voice of every parent who loves their children and wants for them to have the same right to LIFE that we have had! We should not be forced to buy food products that are unfit for human consumption (oh, and we shouldn't feed it to our animals either!).

Sincerely,

Robert Reid