

**From:** Kate Upshur <kate.dubois@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2009 9:35 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a social worker and will soon begin working with homeless individuals in Granite City, Illinois. I personally try to eat as locally as I can, as it tastes better, is healthier, and is better for the environment. However, it has become increasingly difficult to find affordable local food on a social worker's budget. The clients I will be working with have even less access to healthy and local food than I do in St. Louis. It is hard to find a supermarket driving through Granite City, and impossible to find any place that would sell local food. Even if they were there, low income individuals simply cannot afford to buy local items. It places advocates in a paradoxical position – we know it would benefit our clients greatly to eat healthy, but the food they can afford is laden with empty calories. Even the fruit and vegetables that they can buy has lost nutritional value after being shipped thousands of miles. We need to change policies in our food system, because it is a right of every individual to have access to healthy and wholesome food.

Thank you for your attention in this urgent matter. I look forward to seeing what develops in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Kate Upshur, MSW