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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

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Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

Hello,
I am a parent of two young children who is concerned about the safety and sustainability of our food system.

I am primarily worried about the consolidation of corporate power over our food system. Most of our food travels a thousand miles to arrive in our grocery stores, wasting resources and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Also, as corporate control over our food increases, the homogeneity of our food increases, making our diets less healthy as a nation; more and more of our food contains high-fructose corn syrup, which is a product of the mega agribusinesses that produce most corn.

And that corn is increasingly genetically modified. GMOs have not been proven safe, and are not approved for sale in the EU. Why do Americans not even have the right to know if their food is genetically modified or not? This state of affairs already reflects the consequences of too much corporate control over our food.

GMOs are also designed to work with high-cost agricultural inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which increase the costs of farming and contribute to the squeezing out of small farmers.

Local control of food production saves energy, increases the variety of foods that are grown around the country, increases the safety of our food, and supports the survival of small farmers. In a sense, food security is the most basic form of national security. As of now, our system is too large and dependent on fossil fuels, both in the production phase (chemical inputs) and in the distribution phase.

Real security for me and my family would be to be able to rely on a vibrant, healthy local food production network, located in MO or IA, knowing that there is more than just corn and soy grown here, and that we will be able to live, eating what is grown nearby our home.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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