

From: Courtney McLean <Courtney_McLean@emerson.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 1:28 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues - Hey, quit it.

Hello, Department of Justice. So nice to finally talk to you.

I'm Courtney McLean, and I'm an eater, a buyer, and human being. And lately I've been feeling like the things I buy and eat and live on are not quite up to snuff.

I am concerned! I'm concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. I thought Monopoly was a game, not my world.

I was making a salad yesterday. I'm not a big fan of iceberg lettuce, but what the heck, it was in the supermarket. I used my tiny consumer brain to conclude that food being in the supermarket meant that it was in season...but it's not.

I live in Massachusetts. It's 11 degrees outside right now. I'm fairly sure that my lettuce did not come from my neighbor's yard. You know what? I'd much rather not eat salad than eat something that's been shipped halfway around the world and genetically modified to withstand cold and salt or what-have-you. Seriously, why can't I just buy my food from the little local market down the street?

Oh right!! They're out of business. (Thanks, corporate America.)

I wouldn't have a problem with this if the food was somehow equally as good. It just really isn't. Everything's watery and artificial-tasting and I feel like I'm eating the ghosts of what food used to be like. It doesn't make for a very satisfying dining experience, let me tell you.

Also I'm not sure I appreciate the agricultural industry totally taking advantage of the little farmers who keep it in enough green to be able to buy good food- since they'd never eat any of their own. I SAW Food, Inc. I know what goes on. Poor hardworking little chicken farmers are being taken to the cleaners because they're trying to make an (honest?) living and the industry is drowning them in debt.

No more, I say!

Listen. People are figuring this out. And pretty soon we'll all be demanding fresh produce that's IN SEASON, and locally-grown foods without 21 pesticides in every bite. And you know that old phrase about supply and demand, wherein you will be left in the same chicken-farmer hole. And maybe it'll take a while, but just think how popular the industry would be if it made a total turnaround NOW, before everyone found out how awful and corrupt it is.

Just some things to think about!

Thank you for the opportunity to send you comments. I'm sure you will read my words and take them absolutely to heart, and if you don't, that's okay too. God loves us all anyway.

Faithfully yours,
Courtney Lynn McLean

80 Boylston St, T-929C
Boston, MA, 02117