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*I understand that the Department of Justice is interested in receiving comments from concerned citizens about corporate agricultural practices.*

*As a student of Holistic Nutrition and a flight attendant, I find some very interesting contradictions between what we have available in our grocery stores and what I can bring into the U.S. from my travels internationally.*

*Here at home, I have ready access to food produced by huge corporations. The squalor of the conditions under which our animals are raised by some of these companies is appalling. The supplements and drugs used to produce "prettier" or larger quantities of meat are, in many cases, not things that we want in our bodies. The phenomenal proliferation of corn and corn syrup in grocery shelf products and feed for animals is an anomaly, and, in my opinion, a huge contributor to the prevalence of obesity in our country.*

*I am blessed to have access to Farmers' Markets in the warm weather months, and can there buy locally produced, sometimes organic vegetables and meat from local farms. But during the winter months, my options are the mass-market foods.*

*Chicken, pork, and beef from the groceries no longer taste much like what I remember from childhood. Nor do they taste anything like food from purported "third-world" countries to which I travel. Upon hearing the recipe for a local soup from Columbia, none of our flight crew could figure out why it tasted so different made in the U.S. I have since come to find that the meat we obtain here is so lacking flavor that we cannot effectively reproduce that soup here.*

*Obesity is such a huge factor in our country, and my personal opinion is that we have so little flavor and diversification of flavor in our foods that we eat more to try to satiate our appetites. We have become addicted to sugar, corn syrup, white flour, and salt, largely because these are the ingredients in so many of our "foods". Who ever dreamed that we would have a culture addicted to carbonated beverages, and in HUGE quantities.*

*As a flight attendant, I find that U.S. customers are disappointed with a glass of soda; most people want at least a 12 oz. can. In contrast, Europeans and Central/South Americans are usually quite fine with a glass.*

*The U.S. imports food from countries all over the world, usually underripe and never having the capacity to ripen and taste as they should. However, as a flight attendant, should I try to bring a ripe avocado or other fruit into the U.S., it will be taken from me and I might incur a fine from Agriculture. While I understand the concept of protecting our country from diseases, I find it extremely frustrating to have to settle for tasteless, under-ripe produce here. In fact, I never knew that I liked papaya until I tasted it in South America. NOT what we have here!*

*Please consider what the huge corporations are doing, because they are producing tasteless food, often full of things we should not ingest. I hesitate to suggest that they are promoting addictions to sugar-like substances (particularly corn syrup), because I have no insight into their motivations. But given that profit motives for corporations are very strong, such a suggestion might not be out of line.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

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