From: Cynthia Piper <cynpiper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 6:40 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am concerned about the monopoly that Monsanto has on our major food crops in this country and their enforced use of genetically modified seed and pesticides.

The American farmer needs to plant a diverse range of plant types, use enriching fertilizers and rotate crops. Smaller farms, which have been largely squeezed out of the marketplace by agribusiness giants, have been shown to produce more crops per acre than the large companies. We need to return to the family farm, that is not economically forced to use pesticides and genetically modified crops.

Currently, the methods by which our food supply is grown strips the land of nutrients and pollutes the air and water.
Our long term security is sold out for short term profits that will haunt us in the future. Corporate lobbyists become government regulators and vice versa. The government is not holding the agribusinesses to high standards because of this corruption and betrayal of public trust. Our precious air, water and land resources are not being conserved, but instead squandered for short term gain by a very few.

Food prices are high, yet contaminated with pesticides and tainted with modified genes. Produce and food product labeling is nearly non-existent, again protecting liability by large corporations. Our country's standards are lax and our food quality pathetic.

Please put safety standards in our food and protect our environment.
It should be the least a government agency should do, rather than coddling and shielding corporations that undermine and compromise our national security.

Thank you.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia Piper

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