

From: Susan Perry <susanmperry@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 11:34 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

To whom it concerns at the Department of Justice,

I am a mother and a proud community member of the city of Chicago. I am very concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food industry, and am writing to tell you about my concern. As I've gotten older, I've begun looking into the issues of the industrial food system and it concerns me greatly, especially as I feed my daughter these foods. It seems there are constantly outbreaks of various food borne illnesses in the food sold to us as consumers, and the government is either not able to stop this contamination or is not interested in stepping on the toes of the industrial food companies. When you have just a few major processing plants, it is quite understandable how one outbreak of a disease in one location can spread across the country, infecting many more people than it would have were there more local processing. I am tired of worrying about the food I feed to my daughter; wondering if it has travelled thousands of miles, and what type of processing it has been through. The ability for more smaller, local farmers is what our food economy needs, and this opportunity cannot be had without breaking up the power of the large few industrial food giants. I think it is high time we put food safety and nutrition far above the interests of just a few companies. I am also concerned with the cost of appropriate food for my family. Junk foods and filler foods are priced ridiculously low, whereas foods that we should be eating, according to the USDA's food pyramid, can be outrageously expensive. No one should have to choose between nutrition for their family and paying another bill. When I read food labels, I learn that the same few companies produce the majority of the food in the supermarket. It is not by chance then that this price gouging is going on. I'd like to see small farm foods available at my supermarket.

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know of my concern.

Sincerely,

Susan Perry

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