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

I am a consumer. Until a few years ago I bought whatever was on the grocery shelf. Then my sister-in-law came to live with us. She was suffering from advanced diabetes and liver disease. We had to change our diet to meet her health needs.

I did a lot of research on what constituted a good diet for her. And I found that it was the same thing that constituted a good diet for anybody. But it couldn't be found on the 'center' grocery shelves. (Supermarkets put the 'real' food: fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy, etc. on the periphery and canned and packaged goods in the center aisles.) I had to do all my shopping on the periphery.

But even that wasn't enough. Further research showed that real free-range eggs had 85% LESS cholesterol than supermarket eggs. There are lower levels of important nutrients in agri-business produce than in locally grown, sustainably-produced fruits and vegetables.

I'm lucky. I live in a city with a number of farmer's markets. I'm semi-retired so I have the time to seek out good wholesome foods. Everybody needs the same opportunities. Agri-business is in the profit business, not the food business. There needs to be incentives for small farmers so that agribusiness is forced to produce healthy food in order to compete.

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