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Sent: Friday, December 25, 2009 4:03 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

I am also concerned about the ability of Monsanto to sue farmers for using seed that has been unknowingly cross-contaminated with Monsanto's patented seeds. If Monsanto wants to keep farmers from using seeds that have patented genes, then Monsanto should take the full responsibility for preventing its patented plants from pollinating the plants of farmers using non-patented plant forms.

Monsanto is quite clearly trying to develop a global monopoly on the food supply, by patenting seeds and making farmers dependent upon arbitrary rules and laws that Monsanto creates --as is seen in Monsanto's recent attempts to force all farmers using RR1 to pay for RR2.

Though these recent attempts by Monsanto have been stopped, the corporation will not stop its attempts. History has shown that the corporation makes many promises (such as the promise to not research terminator technology, among many others), and then goes back on these promises as soon as the attention is elsewhere.

This corporation will never stop pursuing a global monopoly, it will only temporarily back down on certain strategies. And it will do this no matter what harm it causes to people, competition, or the environment. Though I realize this is not being considered, the best possible choice would be to break up Monsanto into smaller corporations, and force the labeling of foods in supermarkets.

People overwhelmingly do not want to eat genetically modified foods. There is overwhelming research to suggest that some of these foods cause serious harm to some people. And vast numbers of the public want a choice -- WE WANT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS LABELED IN THE SUPERMARKET!!

Labeling, in itself, would help with the problems being investigated relating to Monsanto, because if labeling was forced, people would have the ability to choose what they are buying --thus allowing REAL COMPETITION. The public would decide, and most likely, large portions of the public would choose by not purchasing genetically altered foods --hence ending Monsanto's unethical practices without requiring the DOJ to continue watching Monsanto --as you will otherwise have to, again and again, as the corporation continues to look for ways to profit by impoverishing farmers, maliciously litigating against innocent farmers whose organic crops are ruined by patented GE seeds, and by hiding vital health information from the public.

I say "vital health information" because this information --what products are genetically modified and what products aren't-- could often be key in determining what foods people are having allergic reactions to. When this information is kept hidden from people and their doctors, there is no possible way for people to trace what foods are causing major problems in their systems --problems that can become quite serious and even lead to death in some people.

Ya, I don't like Monsanto. I don't like anything they stand for, or anything that they do. Perhaps this is far from where your views are on this company. But what we can both agree on is that there are serious problems being caused --repeatedly-- by this corporation. And these are problems at the most basic, and most wide-reaching level. Every single one of us consumes Monsanto products, without knowing which products they are, because they are not labeled in our supermarket shelves. This total lack of accountability has left the country vulnerable to monumental abuses, unless something is done that will permanently prevent this.

Please, find a middle ground between my views and yours, and lets make our farmers and our food safe and secure again.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Shana Siegel

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