

**From:** leslieanne@cybermesa.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 27, 2009 2:58 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

---

Leslie Staller  
223 N Guadalupe St #250  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1868

December 27, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over and manipulation of the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. Under any other business circumstances, this would not only be considered anti-competitive behavior that skews markets, but an out-right monopoly that eliminates fair, free-market competition and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

It is unacceptable that they genetically modify seeds and stop farmers from harvesting their own crop's seed for the following planting season. Who, under any circumstances, gives Monsanto that kind of power?

I do not want to eat chemically dependent or sprayed foods, especially from sprays that use precious oil to manufacture. Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, yet they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals. This is NOT free-trade by any definition of the word, nor free enterprise for those of us that don't want to be forced to eat modified "products" that have little or no nutritional value or environmental sustainability due to Monsanto's genetic modifications.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or

"Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them. A diversity of plants and seeds assures that we will always have food, no matter what unexpected disasters come as each crop holds a unique blue-print, just like people and animals do, for survival and adaptability under different circumstances.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Leslie Staller