

From: D. Andrew Love <medrew101@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2009 12:23 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

Dear US Department of Justice,

My name is Drew Love and I am a CSA member, gardener, and activist for local and sustainable food. I believe very strongly in the importance of developing local and sustainable food systems that provide fair wages to the farmers, and deliver safe and nutritious food to the consumer. The current system of big business agriculture, in which a small number of companies control the majority of the United States food market, creates a number of problems. One, the consolidation of food companies makes it far easier for salmonella outbreaks and other dangerous food borne pathogens to find their way to a large number of United States citizens. Regional, ie small scale, food systems would greatly reduce the number of people that would be potentially exposed to such an outbreak due to the fact that there would simply be a smaller number of available customers to purchase and consume contaminated material. Two, large scale agribusiness has an unsustainable dependence upon fertilizers and pesticides that contaminate our food and natural environment, whereas small scale farms are often less reliant upon such chemicals, or have devised organic means of controlling pests so as to eliminate the use of some pesticides and fertilizers. Three, large scale agribusiness is far more likely to endorse impoverished wage labor, as can be seen in the case of the Imokalee workers.

While there are a variety of other reasons to decentralize the concentration of power among agribusiness companies, I urge you to consider at least the previous three points. Please make the right decision in legislating food policies that are sustainable and healthy for the nation.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
-Drew Love