

From: Elaine Elizabeth Walker <eeewalker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2009 2:05 PM
To: AskDOJ@usdoj.gov; ATR-Agricultural Workshops
<agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues

Hello my
name is Elaine
Walker and I
am a garden
educator at a
low-income
public
elementary
school in
California. I
have become
aware, through
documentaries,
books, articles,
observation
and friends,
that the
consolidation
of corporate
power in our
food system is
atrocious. For
the health of
our citizens we
need to check
this system
and put it back
in the hands of
local, small
businesses that
care about the
people they
serve.

I see unhealthy food options that my students and their families often times must "choose" because of financial constraints and systemic issues. Our families have a small voice compared to the huge lobbies that represent corporations. These corporations are over-represented in our agricultural policies. Our taxes subsidize these businesses to make harmful products, genetically modify seeds and plants and market unhealthy food to our society and it is not fair or just. If

we want to
help our
economy and
ensure healthy
future
generations we
need to start
with
preventative
care and stop
encouraging
corporations to
flood our food
system with
junk.

These
corporations
are also
insensitive to
climate change
and need to be
checked. They
pollute
ridiculously
and our food
travels
thousands of
miles because
of centralized
processing
plants and
farms. This
centralization
also poses
huge food
safety issues
and we are
seeing an
increasing

amount of
illness. I can
eat more
locally,
sustainably
grown foods
(some that I've
grown myself)
but many
people can not.
Many of my
elementary
students
struggle with
food related
disease and
illness and I
feel as though
we are
poisoning our
kids. Please
stand up for
what you
believe and
represent us in
your decisions.
This has gone
on long
enough.

Thank you for
the
opportunity to
submit
comments and
for reading my
letter.

Thanks again
for your

support,

Elaine Walker

709 Frederick
Street

San Francisco,
CA 94117