

From: Ian Faulkner <faulkner3k@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2009 4:30 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: The future of food production

My name is Ian Faulkner and I'm writing to express my concerns over the current and escalating consolidation of power within the agricultural industry. In an era when Health Care continues to spiral out of control, it disturbs me that so few should have so much control over what we put in our bodies and wield such control in almost complete secrecy. I also much express my concern over the amount of Federal Subsidies being funneled indirectly to companies like Monsanto with few strings attached. I am fortunate to live in an area with a support system and a large market for sustainable, local and healthy agriculture, but others are not so lucky. We need transparency, diversity, and support for local food production. Without such standards we cannot hope to enforce worker's rights and the rights of consumers.

As national and global inter-connectivity continue to expand, we are all subject to the effects of singular entities holding so much sway over our daily lives. Any progress that can be made in diversifying our food supply and increasing competition will be beneficial both from an economic standpoint and to our Health as a Nation. I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns and hope that the efforts of your Department will yield positive results.

Sincerely,
Ian Faulkner
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