

From: J. Richards <drenleber@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 12:07 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment
Attach: Seeds and Monsanto.txt

To Whom It May Concern,

I am just a working Joe, who happens to like to garden. I have always had a dream of growing all my own food (subsistence farming.) I have for about ten years now not purchased any seeds. I do it the old fashioned way, by letting my best plants go to seed and harvesting those seeds. I am very concerned about the not too unlikely possibility that in the future a company like Monsanto, will try to claim a right or ownership to my seeds. If you were to ask me twenty years ago if I thought this was possible, I would have laughed out loud. Now I am not so sure. If I were to expand the scale of what I do to a commercial level, this seems a real possibility now.

How can a company claim or be allowed to claim a right or ownership over the ways of nature? How can they be allowed to control what humans have done for thousands of years? To me this would be like claiming a right or ownership to breathing air. But due to the methods of the legal system, this is now a possibility. Companies like Monsanto and others like them cannot be allowed to have legal control over the ways and means of nature. It is not too much of a stretch to imagine in the future, my children or grandchildren having to ask permission and if allowed, only obtain seed from some corporation for a price, to plant and grow food.

This may be an oversimplification of the issue, but that is intentional, to me this is something so elementary, I should not feel the need to write this letter. Yet I am. Please so not allow this to become a reality.

Thank You,

J. Richards

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