

**From:** Jim O'Leary <jimol@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 29, 2009 1:30 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:**

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I understand that the US DOJ is holding public hearings on consolidation in the agriculture sector. As a consumer and concerned buyer, I have noticed a number of disturbing trends - higher prices, narrower product selections, and increasingly frequent reports of foodborne contaminants and infectious agents - all of which can be traced to increasing concentration of ownership in food producer and related businesses.

I urge you to look closely at the large owners of food production and food-related patents, and to apply relevant anti-trust laws to ensure that vigorous competition is restored to this industry.

Thank you,

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