

**From:** docoutofthebox@msn.com  
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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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December 29, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, and medical doctor, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply of our food and medicine.

Our medicines come from the earth. Only in eating a sound and balanced diet are we assured healthy minds and bodies. In prevention and through the consumption of foods grown from heirloom seed stock, the country is equipped with its least expensive health insurance plan and health benefit package. Disease and the demand for expensive medications diminishes, as we learn to eat healthier and more diverse diets.

Monsanto is removing genetic material from our reaches. Removing Nature's seed bank is the final straw for humankind. Please focus your attention on the big picture, and not the deepest pockets. Very life depends upon your ability to grasp the concept that our fragile biosphere depends upon genetic diversity.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties,

destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Gerry Lehrburger, MD  
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