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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 29, 2009 9:08 AM  
**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, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

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 of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, in the marketplace, AND in the public domain where they truly belong.

And as a farmer, gardener and mother to two beautiful young men ...having been part of the transition from small scale bioregional food producers to corporate organic stores like Whole Foods, who suddenly showed up in' the market place' forcing me and my beautiful young boys not to be able to afford to shop in the very stores we supplied gave me great pause. ... as to the now and future greater health and well being for myself , children and our Home Planet.

The State needs to step down...Government by the People, For the People.

Much Gratitude and All Blessings for this opportunity to voice my thoughts and feelings on this matter....Barbara, Woody, William , Nathan and Sky

Let me leave you with Wendell Berry's 'Questionnaire' poem...

- >> 1. How much poison are you willing
- >> to eat for the success of the free
- >> market and global trade? Please
- >> name your preferred poisons.
- >>
- >> 2. For the sake of goodness, how much
- >> evil are you willing to do?
- >> Fill in the following blanks
- >> with the names of your favorite
- >> evils and acts of hatred.
- >>
- >> 3. What sacrifices are you prepared
- >> to make for culture and civilization?
- >> Please list the monuments, shrines,
- >> and works of art you would
- >> most willingly destroy.
- >>
- >> 4. In the name of patriotism and
- >> the flag, how much of our beloved
- >> land are you willing to desecrate?
- >> List in the following spaces
- >> the mountains, rivers, towns, farms
- >> you could most readily do without.
- >>
- >> 5. State briefly the ideas, ideals, or hopes,
- >> the energy sources, the kinds of security,
- >> for which you would kill a child.
- >> Name, please, the children whom
- >> you would be willing to kill.

Sincerely,

barbara M V scott