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Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 2:36 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Food supply

It is my understanding that concerns regarding the lack of competition regarding control of the food supply is being investigated by you.

First of all I would like to thank you for taking the time to launch this investigation.

The reduction in the powers of the Food and Drug Administration to penalize the businesses they are in place to regulate is a major concern. As is the appointment of people from the industries being overseen to the Food and Drug Administration, I would think that this could be seen as a conflict of interest.

The lack of quality control regarding the introduction of e. coli into the mass produced and packaged meat and vegetables is a major concern.

The methods the large corporations use to intimidate the growers and ranchers is also a concern. The methods of raising poultry and cattle, when they are exposed to, and spend much of their lives amidst feces and fed animal by-products and anti-biotics, has long term medical implications. It lowers the disease barriers and encourages anti-biotic resistant diseases. Further the practice of introducing animal by-products into animal feed encourages diseases to evolve cross species.

The prevalence of high yield grains, encouraged by the seed companies, and the prosecution (or threat of) of farmers for saving seed, or farming without the seed encouraged by the large corporations who buy the seed is also a problem.

By limiting the types of grains grown, it increases the possibility of a catastrophic crop failure. Should a new disease or pest attack the limited species now grown. It makes us more vulnerable as a nation to limit the types of food grains we grown.

The amounts of petrochemicals used to grow, fertilize and transport the food seed grains is detrimental to the National security of the country as a whole. Increasing the dependence on imported oil.

The purpose of the huge multi-national corporations is to operate at a profit. The methods used by them are focused on that more than on the long term social, political, health and environmental impacts of their practices.

The fact that only four corporations control 80% of the food supply is a grave concern.

The long term consequences of the methods in use currently to grow, process and package the food consumed in the United States needs to be addressed. The current system in place needs reformation. We can not expect a industry to regulate itself. History shows us that this does not work. I am of the opinion that the meat industry alone is in worse shape now than it was 100 years ago when Upton Sinclair wrote, The Jungle.

Thank you for launching this vitally needed investigation.

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