

From: nking2@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 2:38 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Monsanto Is Out of Control

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December 29, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

This is in hopes that our government will at last take action to stem the coercive practices and onerous activities of Monsanto to litigate family farmers into a corner, forcing them to cave to Monsanto's business model of GMO-only crops.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment 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 very concerned about Monsanto's control of the seed supply and aggressive litigation against any farmer who still wishes to grow non-GMO crops or organic crops.

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. And if that's not destructive enough in the long term to humanity, Monsanto takes the short-term action to prosecute those farmers out of their livelihood if they dare grow non-Monsanto crops and those crops become cross-pollinated

by Monsanto's GMO monsters.

We are in danger. Our planet is in danger. 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. There is only one word to describe what Monsanto is doing. It is evil.

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,

Nan King
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