

From: Judie Anders <judieanders@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 8:59 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments on Updating the Merger Guidelines:

To Whom It May Concern

Department of Justice

Attn: Carl Shapiro
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Sir,

I have been a long time advocate of local agriculture and in support of young farmers coming into agriculture as their profession. I have been a member of 4-H clubs for years and now support the Land-Link initiatives connecting the younger generation with retiring farmers to continue the agricultural legacy in our nation. This program finds ways to match young and retiring farmers to continue farming land that would go into development and keep it in agricultural production.

I am deeply concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in agriculture. It is shutting down opportunities for young farmers and small local farmers because they cannot compete with the huge multinational corporations who control the industry from seeds to harvest. There is no room for a middle range, or Main Street, in the current scenario. Corporate farmers are subsidized heavily with tax payer money, MY money. The small or local farmers cannot get assistance because they don't grow the same crop on the same land every year. These laws around subsidies have been brought about through the lobbying interests of huge corporate firms and are designed to cut out the smaller operations by making them unsustainable through unfairly low pricing. There are fewer and fewer jobs in food and farming these days and a huge chasm of opportunities for both urban and rural youth who are interested in growing and preparing food. I urge you to take action to change this.

I am encouraged by the opportunity that is being presented to offer comment to you, the Department of Justice, and thank you for allowing public comment. Your name implies fairness, and I urge you to stand and represent Justice for farmers of all ages and backgrounds in this country. Our country was founded on this fairness and on this kind of fairness.

Sincerely,

Judie Anders

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