

**From:** Hagood, Charlotte Amanda <charlotte.a.hagood@Vanderbilt.Edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 9:46 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a teacher of literature and Vanderbilt University and have long been involved with the community gardening movement in Nashville, Tennessee. Though it might at first be difficult to see the connection between these two parts of my life, I believe that the issues of where our food comes from and how we understand our relationship to the land and people who provide our food point us to the same kinds of important moral and ethical questions that my classes explore in the great works of literature. Our food is, in a way, our humanity.

As such, I am deeply concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. In my work, I have witnessed too many young people growing up without access to fresh, healthy foods, without any practical knowledge of how food gets to the table, and without the skills needed to grow and cook their own food. Food is such a vital part of family, community, and culture--how can we expect young people who grow up without good, nourishing food to become productive citizens if we leave them no room at our shared table? The consolidation of corporate power in our food system not only threatens their access to nutritious food, but to the kind of social nutrition that fresh, healthy food can provide.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to express my views, and for all the work you do.

Best,  
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