

From: Faith Battels <rainbowbf@mail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 11:18 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

Dear Department of Justice:

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

As a result of the aggressive activities of large chemical corporations like Monsanto, my family and I are finding it difficult and expensive to avoid genetically modified ingredients in our food. The problem is made worse when organic crops are contaminated by cross-pollination from genetically modified crops. If this continues, our right to choose organic foods will be virtually eliminated.

Giant corporations such as Monsanto have apparently convinced key government officials that there is no important difference between genetically modified food and non-genetically modified food, so food with, or derived from, GMO's does not have to be labeled as such. This is an outrage! It is making us furious and it is shaking our confidence in our leaders. How could they let this happen? We want our food clearly and thoroughly labeled!

My family and I have resolved to eliminate GMO's from our diet, regardless of how difficult it may be to do this. An increasing number of studies are revealing that GMO's are NOT safe.

On May 19th, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) called on "Physicians to educate their patients, the medical community, and the public to avoid GM (genetically modified) foods when possible and provide educational materials concerning GM foods and health risks." They called for a moratorium on GM foods, long-term independent studies, and labeling. AAEM's position paper stated, "Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food," including infertility, immune problems, accelerated aging, insulin regulation, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system. They conclude, "There is more than a casual association between GM foods and adverse health effects. There is causation," as defined by recognized scientific criteria. "The strength of association and consistency between GM foods and disease is confirmed in several animal studies."

Since 1965 this international association of physicians and clinicians has been providing research and education alerting us to hazardous toxins in our environment. Now they are saying that GM foods pose a serious health risk.

Another bad effect of letting corporate giants control our food production is that food is being grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water and poison the soil.

We just discovered a few days ago that our well water, which had been of excellent quality, is now too high in nitrate to be safe to drink.

So now my family and I are struggling to deal with food contaminated by GMOs and water contaminated by chemical fertilizer runoff.

The giant chemical companies' strangle hold on agriculture must be broken.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
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